

Friends Community School

*Weekly Bulletin
October 2, 2009*

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD...

It was a fairly quiet day in the building at FCS yesterday. Our seventh and eighth graders received their final instructions for their overnight trip to Catoctin, stuffed sleeping bags and backpacks into cars, and they were gone. Our K-2 classes were excited to participate in their service project off campus, packing vegetables for the Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network. Children and their parents boxed up locally-grown sweet potatoes to be distributed to those in need throughout our region. The event organizer estimated that our group packaged 8000 pounds of sweet potatoes! The Network appreciated the hard work and community spirit of our families, and gave a generous amount of vegetables to the children.

We continue to seek effective ways to communicate with our families. Very soon, FCS teachers will all launch their own websites to better inform parents and students of the many events, field trips, and classroom activities that make FCS such a vibrant community. Please look for more information from Christine Dunathan, and check with your child for the family's user name and password for these Google sites. As teachers become more familiar with this program, the websites will become a vital form of communication between teachers and parents.

In Peace,

Larry

Upcoming Events This Week

6 Parent Night 5-8, 7pm

8 Field Trip - Kindergarten, Sharp's Farm 8:30am - 2:00pm

8 Progressive teachers visit FCS

8 Keynote Address at Progressive Teachers Conference; Marian Wright Edelman

9 Progressive Teachers Conference-No School offered, 8am - 6pm ***X-Day

10 Keynote Address at PEN Conference; Jonathan Kozol

Keynote Speaker at the Progressive Educators National Conference

Two nationally known educators are presenting keynote addresses at the upcoming national conference. Parents are invited to attend these sessions. Marian Wright Edelman is speaking on Thursday, October 8 at 7:30pm and Jonathan Kozol is scheduled to address the conference on Saturday, October 10 at 3:00pm. Interested parents should register online at www.greenacres.org/penconference. The cost is \$20 per speaker.

Fundraising, that eleven letter word...

Fundraising has a somewhat tattered reputation as a necessary evil, but is it really so bad? Giving money, as well as other resources, no matter the amount, is a way for families to weave into daily life their broader sense of community and caring through concrete action. Food for thought.

Every year parents, grandparents and other friends of the school participate in the Annual Giving Fund (AGF). The AGF funds the difference between tuition and the true cost to provide a child-centered, experiential curriculum. That gap could be funded through higher tuition, but FCS chooses to keep tuition more affordable and fundraise instead to fill the gap. Unlike tuition, contributions to the AGF are tax-deductible.

In a couple of weeks you will receive a letter asking for your participation in the Annual Giving Fund. A gift this fall is especially powerful since it can then be available for school programs this year. You can donate a little each month, or quarterly, or one-time, via check, credit card, or stock transfer. Annual Giving Fund envelopes are in the foyer and the office. The Means of Giving Guide, on the FCS website under Community/Fundraising, gives the details about various payment options. Contributions should be made out to FCS and sent

much.

FCS Google master calendar, class calendars, and class websites

I am pleased to announce that FCS has established an FCS Google for Educators domain. This gives parents, students, faculty and staff many of the features of Google - Applications, Calendars, Websites - through a password-protected, advertisement-free FCS-dedicated corner of Google. These features are incredibly convenient since they are a centralized place for information and are available anywhere the internet is available - home, school, work, out of town.

Within FCS Google for Educators, we have created a master FCS calendar and class calendars that can be viewed individually or in any combination. This is a convenient way to keep track of upcoming events in your student(s) class as well as school-wide events. They work like a set of transparencies - you choose which ones to overlay and view.

Each class also has a website within FCS Google that enable teachers to post letters, homework assignments, announcements, forms and other useful information. Some teachers are fairly far along in this new endeavor, others are just getting underway. They all appreciate your support and understanding as they find the best use of this tool in their communications with you and their students.

We have given every FCS family access to "FCS Google" through accounts assigned to each student. You will receive a letter through kidmail with your child's username and password, and other pertinent information. Look for it this afternoon or Monday.

Boxtops for Education

FCS is participating this year in the "Boxtops for Education" program. If you use products that carry the "boxtop", just save them and drop them in the collection box located in the front office. An easy way to generate a few more dollars to our school!

A Fall Fair Introduction

The FCS Fall Fair will be held from **Noon to 4pm** on **Sunday, October 18th**. Fall Fair is a wonderful tradition and is the school's largest community-building activity. This is the only event that includes every part of the school - parents, students, alumni, faculty and staff. If you have not gotten a chance to meet parents in your child's classroom or go on any field trips yet, this is your chance to connect with the FCS community. It is fun for the whole family!

food table extraordinaire. Profits from the Fall Fair traditionally go to teachers to augment classroom budgets.

Parent-run booths include: an obstacle course, moon bounce, pumpkin and apple sales table, pie table, ticket table, toy & book sale and FCS t-shirt table. **Classroom Booths:** children in each class develop a booth and then put it together and staff it. The **Food Table** consists of food and drinks contributed by FCS parents and local restaurants. Hungry fairgoers purchase paper plates in the gym and then load the plates up with delicious food. No one goes hungry at Fall Fair!!

Fall Fair is wonderful fun, but we need your help to ensure its success. Parents are asked to contribute to the Fair in the following four ways:

- 1. Bring a dish for the food table,**
- 2. Sign up for a shift at your child's classroom booth (K - 6th grade students work a shift with a parent and 7th & 8th grade students work shifts without a parent),**
- 3. Sign up for a shift at a parent-run booth. Additionally, we need a couple of parents to help us to coordinate our publicity and food solicitation efforts, and**
- 4. Bring in gently used toys, books and games.**

Sign up sheets for parent-run booths and classroom booths can be found at:

<http://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AVTqIQbq4boQZGY1ajJmajJfMjJw dG44a2Q0&hl=en> Gently used toys, books and games can be left in the front lobby starting the first day of October. If you aren't going to be in town on the weekend of the Fair, we can still use your help contacting local restaurants to arrange food donations prior to the event.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Fall Fair Team: Sieglinde Peterson (301) 345-4428, Janet Dixon (202) 832-4874 or John Wolfrum (571) 220-5115 or rumwolf@gmail.com .

See you at the Fair!

Fall Fair Help Needed

Publicity Czar needed to work with current administration to publicize Fall Fair 2009. You will have power to make decisions and a budget!

tenaj@efxmedia.com.

Fall Fair Donations

Please begin dropping off your books and toys in the front hallway. If you could drop off books (especially) in boxes, it would be really helpful. If you have any items that you think you might like to donate but are not sure of - please drop me an email at rinc@rinc-inc.com. Thanks to the two parents who emailed and said they were willing to help with books and toys in some way. We sure could use more - so please email me. Rozanne (Sasha's mom, Sarah's 5/6).

Magnet Art is Coming

As the parents heard at K-4 Parent Night, Magnet Art is coming! This is a program that allows us to purchase products with our kids' lovely artwork on them (e.g., for holiday gifts). It also serves as the primary fund-raiser for the art department, and allows them to offer enhanced programs using materials/supplies not otherwise available, as well as special speakers, etc. Here are some key dates:

Oct. 23 - Sample magnets (with your child's artwork) and order forms sent home
Nov. 2 - Deadline to submit orders
Early Dec. - Orders sent home

Questions? Want to serve as a class coordinator? Please contact Cheryl Martin (Adam/Olivia's mom) at martclaa@gmail.com or 301-927-9015. Thank you!

Upper Crust Bakery Bake Sale

Melanie B. and Jenny G's classes are helping animals at Tails of Hope Sanctuary. Tails of Hope takes animals that are hurt or have been given up by their owners who can't take care of them. Sometimes Tails of Hope has to spend lots of money to help the injured animals. All money will go to Tails of Hope Sanctuary to pay for the surgery of the animals that live there. Please come to buy the bread that will come from Upper Crust Bakery (Jack and Liam's mom).

DATE: Thursday, October 8

TIME: 2:15-5:15pm

CHEAP PRICES!

After School - ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

SOCCER CLUB

We urge students to join, so that we can build a fun, strong club!

Due to the short fall season, the fee for Soccer Club is reduced to \$75 for the fall semester.

Soccer Club Description:

Learn basic and advanced skills, offensive and defensive strategies, and teamwork while growing into a program that may play friendly matches with at least one other club. Bring own shin guards and cleats. Club will meet until Thanksgiving. (Students may miss practices for "Weird Science".)

Coach: Sarah Evans (new 5/6 teacher, with experience coaching soccer & lacrosse)

Assistant Coach: Joe Dominguez (FCS alumnus, experienced player and goalie)

Grades 5-8.

Tues & Thurs., 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Halloween Policy

Halloween is just around the corner. We encourage the children to use homemade costumes. These could include favorite storybook characters, peacemakers, insects, etc... Be creative! If you are unable to make your costume PLEASE keep in mind our policy that all costumes be of a nonviolent nature, with no masks, weapons, or super heroes.

We will have a school-wide parade on Friday, October 30 at 8:45 A.M. All families are welcome to stay and enjoy this special FCS tradition. See all the great costumes the children have made or are wearing and discover what the teachers have come up with this year.

Some classes will have Halloween parties that morning. While our school has a policy of "no candy," this is the one day that we allow a limited amount in classroom parties. Your child's teacher will guide you on this matter.

Instrumental Music Program

Interest forms for students in grades 4 through 8 who wish to participate in the after-school Instrumental Music Program were due today (Friday, October 2nd).

plans next week. Please contact Stacy with any questions (stacy@friendscommunityschool.org).

Science Night

Science Night at FCS, 7pm December 8th. Grades 5 through 8 will display their science research projects for all to see. Please come and ask our FCS kids about their research.

School's Birthday

The school's birthday which is celebrated the first Sunday of November at FCS. Adelphi Friends Meeting moves its 10 a.m. Meeting for Worship (MfW) to 10:30 a.m. and joins folk from FCS at the school for MfW. Cake and ice cream are served. Also, there will be opportunities after MfW to attend a Bible Study and a discussion on Early Christianity. Please contact Joy Newheart mjnewheart@cavtel.net or 301-614-3912 with any questions.

StoryTelling Evening

Hey Families! Got a story to share? Love to listen to a good liar's contest? Steve Woods and June Confer of Adelphi Friends Meeting are hosting an evening of storytelling every other month. In October, they'll meet at Steve's house on October 9th at 7:00 p.m. Because they can't always guarantee the content of the stories (PG-13) and one needs to sit and listen well, Steve thinks 13 and older is best. Come on out for a good time. Call Steve at 301-277-3172 for more information. In fact, double check the start time.

Sign up now for Education Rebate Programs to help FCS!

Calling all FCS families, friends, relatives... Here is a simple, easy way to raise funds for FCS at no cost to you -- sign up for education rebate programs at Safeway (www.escrip.com), Giant Food (www.giantfood.com/aplus), and Target (www.target.com/TCOE) to earn revenue for the FCS Annual Giving Fund. The Annual Giving Fund provides support for classroom enrichment activities and trips, special projects, and much more. Online registration is quick, free, and essential to do at this time whether or not you registered last year.

Giant: #00599

Can't find your Giant card? Call 1-877-375-3758 and

Escrip: Group ID: 6505952

This is a single sign-up for your Safeway card, and for any other debit or credit cards to generate rebates automatically when you use your card(s). Many stores participate in this program, and you don't have to keep track of which ones - rebates accrue automatically. How great is that??!

<https://secure.escrip.com/jsp/supporter/registration/step1.jsp>

Target: use your Target card # Sign up at
www.target.com/tcoe

Please contact christine@friendscommunityschool.org with questions or for assistance. Thank you for your support! Please sign up today!

Dates To Remember

Oct. 18 Fall Fair

Oct. 21 PTO Meeting - **NOTE DATE CHANGE**

Oct.28-30 Parent / Teacher Conferences, Noon Dismissal