

Friends Community School

October 9, 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD. .

Over a year in the planning, the Progressive Educators Network (PEN) national conference has come to the DC area. Green Acres School in Rockville has functioned as the host school, but much of the organization for the conference has been accomplished by a dedicated group of teachers from local progressive schools. Jenifer Weiss, our representative, has attended several meetings to coordinate conference activities including the school visits on Thursday for the many out-of-town participants. Nearly thirty teachers spent Thursday afternoon at FCS, having lunch, visiting classes, touring our building, and chatting with colleagues. School is closed on Friday to allow our teachers to fully participate in the many sessions being offered at the conference site. Over eighty workshop topics are planned for Friday for teachers interested in such diverse topics as art, math problem solving, differentiated instruction, or service learning. Additional sessions and panel discussions are offered on Saturday. The Network was fortunate to attract very distinguished speakers for the keynote addresses: Marion Wright Edelman (last night) and Jonathan Kozol (Saturday afternoon). Interested parents should register online at www.greenacres.org/penconference. The cost is \$20 per speaker. We are delighted that we have this opportunity to share ideas with many of our country's best progressive educators.

Upcoming Events This Week

- **October 18** - Fall Fair

Fall Fair

The FCS Fall Fair will be held from noon to 4pm on Sunday, October 18th. The Fall Fair includes an obstacle course, moon bounce, pumpkin and apple sales, pies, toys and book sales, and many other fun activities for children of all ages!

Lunch includes food and drink contributed by FCS parents and local restaurants. **No one goes hungry at the Fall Fair!**

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSES AND YOU!

from Connie Belfiore, Director of Admissions and Outreach

Thank you very much for agreeing to distribute our Open Houses flyer to persons who may be interested in attending, and to places where interested persons may see the flyer. Such places include preschools, community centers, libraries, places of worship, and anywhere where parents of young children gather.

In addition, we respectfully request that you post the information contained on the flyer on your local listservs, and in your neighborhood newsletters.

We publicize our school in many ways, but you, our families, always are FCS' best means of outreach. Please continue to talk with prospective parents about FCS. We have a vibrant, supportive, and growing community, thanks to you!

Please also feel free to ask for more flyers, and/or for me to contact a person or group who may be interested in FCS.

With regard to the Open Houses themselves, we would like some current parents to be present to talk with interested parents, during each event. If you would be interested in helping us in this way, please contact me (if you have not already) at connie@friendscommunityschool.org. Joan Warfield, Lucas' (Gerry's 3/4) mom, generously is volunteering her time to help me with the Open Houses, so she or I will contact you to confirm your participation.

Thank you very much for your continuing support of our great school! I welcome your input at any time.

Thinkin' 'bout my education...

From Christine Dunathan, Director of Institutional Advancement and IT

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Back to School nights and the PTO meeting, and appreciate your offers of time and talent, as well as the donations some of you have already made to the *Annual Giving Fund*.

A formal *Annual Giving Fund* letter is coming soon.

Why would you give?

- to honor your children's teacher, a grandparent or other person who is important in your children's life
- to support financial aid and our economically diverse community
- to enrich the classroom with projects, residencies, performances, and materials that give profound hands-on learning experiences
- to fund staff development - conferences, training, seminars
- to support the mission of the school and keep it strong

You can and do make a difference!

Please consider FCS at the greatest giving level your family can support. Monthly or

quarterly gifts are possible directly from a bank or credit card account. *Annual Fund* envelopes are in the foyer and the office. Your contribution to FCS is so warmly appreciated.

Effortless donations from corporations and businesses

Businesses give funds to causes their consumers care about. Let's direct some our way! Online registration is quick, and free. Please participate in the Giant, E-Scrip, and Target programs:

Giant FCS ID: 00599. Register at www.giantfood.com/aplus. Can't find your Giant card? Call 1-877-275-2758 and Giant will look it up and register you.

E-Scrip Group ID: 6505952

E-Scrip provides 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?! Sign up online at <https://secure.escrip.com/jsp/supporter/registration/step1.jsp>

Target Use your Target credit card number to sign up for Target's "Take Charge of Education" program. Sign up at www.target.com/tcoe.

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

Instrumental Music Program

After-school lessons for students involved in the Instrumental Music Program begin Monday, October 12th. Students should plan to bring their instrument to school on all lesson days. More information, including lesson times and teacher information, can also be found on the Instrumental Music Program page of Stacy's Music Website.

Please e-mail Stacy(Stacy@FriendsCommunitySchool.org) with any questions/concerns.

Science Night

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

PTO News

from Olivia McDaniel, Co-Clerk

The PTO Meeting schedule is changing! Please note that meetings will NOT always be on Tuesday nights from now on, so watch for an update each month. October's meeting will feature a speaker on the Swine Flu, and will be on Wednesday, October 21 at 6:45. Mark your calendar.

Also, two financial notes. For those who are ordering pies to be delivered at Fall Fair, please make your checks payable to "FCS PTO" (not to FCS). The PTO will be paying the bill for the pies, and, therefore, the revenue needs to be in our bank account!! And a reminder that PTO dues were due on September 30th. Fewer than 10% of families have paid to date. PLEASE get your dues in to the green box in the office as soon as you can.

FCS Birthday

The school's birthday is celebrated the first Sunday of November at FCS. Adelphi Friends Meeting moves its usual 10 am Meeting for Worship (MfW) to 10:30 am 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 at 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 and to double check the start time.

Annual Used Book Sale

Sandy Spring Friends Meeting is holding its Annual Used Book Sale and Attic Treasures Sale the weekends of November 7-8 and November 14-15. Saturday hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; Sunday hours are 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

17801 Meeting House Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

For information, call 301-774-9792 or e-mail office@sandyspring.org.

Quaker Corner

It is not opinion, or speculation, or notions of what is true, or assent to or the subscription of articles and propositions, though never so soundly worded, that . . . makes a man a true believer or true Christian. But it is a conformity of mind and practice to the will of God, in all holiness of conversation, according to the dictates of this Divine principle of Light and Life in the soul which denotes a person a child of God.

-- William Penn, as quoted in *Faith and Practice of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* (Quakers), Draft (Sandy Spring, MD: Quaker Heron Press,

2009), p. 17.

(This document is also available online at <http://www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/pubs/FaithNPractice/fnp1.html>)

Dates To Remember

Oct. 21 PTO Meeting - NOTE DATE CHANGE
Oct. 28-30 Parent / Teacher Conferences, Noon Dismissal
Nov. 17 PTO Meeting
Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday - No School
