

Dates To Remember

Nov. 25 - 27, Thanksgiving Holiday - No School

Quaker Corner

The intent of all speaking is to bring into the life, and to walk in, and to possess the same, and to live in and enjoy it, and to feel God's presence.—George Fox, quoted in Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Faith and Practice (2009 Draft) 105, available online <http://www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/pubs/FaithNPractice/vocalministry09.shtml#topic>

Upcoming Events

Dec. 3 - (Jenifer', 3/4) - Field trip to the Newseum

Dec. 4 - Open House, 9:30am - 11:00am

Dec. 9 - (Jenny L., 3/4) - Field trip to Whole Foods, 9:15am - 1:30pm

Dec. 18 - Holiday Performance - Noon Dismissal

Dear Hilary,

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD. . .

This has been another busy week for parents at FCS. On Tuesday night we hosted our third annual "Moving Up Night." Parents of current sixth grade students came together to learn more about our 7 / 8 program. Jordan, Chris, James, and Melanie C. presented details about the English, history, mathematics, and science programs. Donna and Sarah also discussed the newly-designed elective program for the visual and performing arts in the seventh and eighth grades. Current eighth graders, Maxim Baranov, Kathleen Bender, Rebecca Hamilton-Levy, and Montana Monardes shared their thoughts about the current program, homework expectations, use of technology in classes, and preparation for high school. Special thanks to recent graduate Melanie Brill and her mother, Lisa, for discussing the transition process to high school. Parents were pleased to discuss the many developments in the program.

Last night, over sixty parents participated in the Parent-Teacher Association's meeting for business. Current Clerk, Olivia McDaniel, provided an overview to the issues facing the organization, including finances, structure, and purpose. Patrick Mulvey reported on the recent activities of the Board. Parents enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the issues in small groups, meet other parents, and enjoy a pizza dinner while their children were nearby. Many thanks to Olivia for all of her work to pull this meeting together.

May you have an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends.

In Peace,
Larry

Report of FCS Board Meeting

October/November 2009

We have revised the budget to account for 197 students enrolled this year.

The School may be obligated to comply with the FTC's recent Identity theft Red Flags Rule. The Finance Committee will review and approve a plan by November 1, 2009 and will present it to the full

Board at a future meeting.

Conversations are underway to shape the relationship between the parents organization and the school. Parent Reps to the Board should be involved in the conversations. This relationship should be formalized in the bylaws of the PTO and the School.

FCS has rejoined the state independent school association, AIMS. A schedule for accreditation is being discussed. AIMS provides many helpful guidelines relative to parent organizations, finance, admissions, and financial aid.

The Progressive Educators Network national conference was a major success. Teachers appreciated the opportunity to attend the conference.

We are moving ahead with plans for Advancement, including the Annual Giving Fund.

We added two new students in November bringing the enrollment to 199.

The Board reviewed aspects of the 403B plan.

The Board reviewed the major issues related to building construction and the scheduled mediation.

Patrick Mulvey/Willis DeHart

After School Enrichment Program

Except for the "Books to Film Club", all other enrichment activities will not be held during the week of November 23rd due to the Thanksgiving break. The "Books to Film Club" will hold a make-up session on Monday, November 23th from 3:30 to 5:00.

***This notice does not apply to the instrumental music program.

Instrumental Music Program

Please note that students enrolled in after-school music lessons on Mondays (Strings) and Tuesdays (Woodwinds) will have their regularly scheduled lessons next week (Nov. 23 and 24). Students who miss lessons due to the Thanksgiving break (Wednesday - Friday) will not be charged.

***Please encourage your child(ren) to continue practicing their instrument at home as we are getting close to our performance date,

scheduled for Friday, December 18th!

Philanthropy Matters

The Annual Giving Fund

The Annual Giving Fund is growing thanks to early participation by Board members, faculty, and some parents. **Our goal this year is \$60,000!** As you probably know, tuition does not cover the total costs of educating our children. **A number of families in the FCS community have agreed to donate toward a pool of matching gift funds**, with the hope that their generosity will inspire other families to be as generous as they can in supporting the school. If you would like to join them, please contact Christine Dunathan, FCS' Director of Institutional Advancement, at 301-441-2100, for details. Thanks!

All gifts to the FCS Annual Giving Fund are fully tax deductible. Every gift is sincerely appreciated and every gift counts!

Link Your Giant Card to FCS!

Many parents have yet to sign up for the Safeway / Giant / Target Visa give-back-to-your-school programs. It's easy, fast, and free. When you sign up, it generates funds effortlessly for FCS when you shop at these stores. This is money waiting to be claimed! We are not asking you to change your spending habits, just to link your affinity cards and/or credit cards so that whatever you do spend at participating stores generates funds for FCS. Thank you very much.

Giant: FCS ID #00599 www.giantfood.com/aplus

Can't find your Giant card? Call 1-877-275-2758 and Giant will look it up and register you.

Escrip: Group ID: 6505952
www.escrip.com/jsp/supporter/registration

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??!

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!

Green Tip of the Week

Turn down the heat this winter- it saves cash, fuel and your health. DOE says people spend 50-70% of their energy budgets on heating and cooling, but for every ° you lower the thermostat, you'll save 1-3% off your bill. You'll also burn more calories in cooler temps and it won't dry out your nasal passages like hot, dry air can. Drier nasal passages are a perfect breeding ground for winter colds & flus.

Some tips:

1. A light sweater adds 2 °, a heavy sweater adds 4 °. Snuggling adds warmth and love.
2. Most thermostats can be at 65 ° when everyone's home. Try lowering it 1 ° at a time.
3. Turn down thermostats 5-10 ° at night and invest in some cozy blankets.
4. When you'll be out for an evening, or having a big party, turn down the thermostats. If you'll be away for a weekend or more, lower to 55. Your pipes won't freeze at that temperature.
5. Try a programmable set-back thermostat. You can have the heat turned up before you get up in the morning and lowered at night or while everyone's at school/work.
6. When you open Spring windows, turn down thermostats so the furnace isn't overtaxed.
7. If your furnace is old, check out the new energy-efficient ones at www.energystar.gov.