



Friends Community School

Weekly Bulletin

November 6, 2009

Dates To Remember

Nov. 13 - 5/6
(Melanie C) Field Trip to Maryland Ropes Course, 11:30pm - 2:30pm

Upcoming Dates

Nov. 17 - (Jenny's 3/4) - Smithsonian Field Trip, Gem Collection

Nov.19 - PTO Meeting

Nov.25 - 27, Thanksgiving Holiday - No School

Quaker Corner

So Friends are not to meet like a company of people about town or parish business, neither in their men's nor women's meetings, but to wait upon the Lord; and feeling his power and spirit to lead them, and order them to his glory; that so whatsoever they may do, they may do it to the praise and glory of God, and in unity

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD. . .

My daily visits to classrooms provide many opportunities to see teachers and students in action. Conversations with teachers about their program also remind me about the nature of FCS and how we develop opportunities for children. Last Saturday, math teacher, Jordan Abramson, took eight of his math students to the twenty-fourth Maryland Mathalon for Middle Schools. Over 200 students from around the state participated. Students participated in problem solving challenges as individuals and as a team. Another challenge was the engineering component of the event. FCS won a few ribbons for third through fifth place for individual events, and Chloe Aloimonos contributed to a second place team in the engineering and inventions section. Many thanks to Jordan for providing this opportunity for our children.

Earlier today, Chris's 8th grade history students presented their group projects on the Great Depression. Through student-produced movies, PowerPoints, and songs, students presented the results of a few weeks of research and production. Most students consulted primary sources as they explored the human toll of the Depression. They demonstrated their understanding of unemployment, relief programs, and discrimination and intimidation of minorities. Interestingly, just yesterday Congress voted to extend funding for unemployment benefits. Our students' understanding of the Great Depression enables them to better comprehend the complexity of today's economic situation.

In Peace,

Larry

Philanthropy Matters

The FCS Annual Giving Fund must raise \$60,000 this year, a lofty but obtainable goal! Parents, Board members, faculty and staff are all asked to give to FCS. Our goal is 100% participation! Please participate and be counted! Every donation is most heartily appreciated and really does benefit your child.

Funds this year will go toward financial aid, teacher training and conferences, expert teacher-in-residence programs, software and other classroom materials, class trips, and many other important resources.

Gifts are welcome by check, credit card, direct account to account

in the faith, and in the spirit, and in fellowship in the order of the gospel.--George Fox, Epistle 313 (written in 1674), as quoted in Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Faith and Practice (2009 Draft) 53.

transfers, or through appreciated securities; please call Christine Dunathan in the Development Office, or Cynthia Mowery in the Business Office, at FCS main number, 301.441.2100, to let us know if you are considering a gift of securities. The main FCS website has the details about ways to give to support the school: www.friendscommunityschool.org.

Many thanks!

-- Christine Dunathan

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!

Turkey Boxes

Hello Friends and Families, we are drawing closer to Thanksgiving, which means that it is Turkey Box time!!! Each Thanksgiving, FCS seeks to share some of its resources with families who are less fortunate by providing Thanksgiving meals for those in need. We want the students to realize that they can help others by contributing food to others in our community. This year, each classroom will provide one Thanksgiving meal for a family of 8. These meals will go to the College Park Youth and Family Services for distribution among families in need.

Please join us in helping to provide a meal for other families in our community.

In addition to the circled item below, please send in \$2.00 to help pay for the turkey for the dinner.

Thank you for helping us with this and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Instrumental Music Program

Instrumental Music Program Students With the annual Holiday Show quickly approaching, it is time to begin ensemble rehearsals in preparation for the performance on December 18th. Students will continue to meet for small group lessons *once* each week and will begin rehearsing with the full ensemble on Fridays. Please see the notice sent home with your child for a detailed schedule and contact Stacy with any questions/concerns. Thank you for your continued support of our after-school Instrumental Music Program!

Inclement Weather Policy

We follow the Prince George's County school system as to school closings and late openings in cases of inclement weather. Please consult local television or radio stations for current information on such days.

For late openings, no Extended-Day program is available. No supervision is available until the announced opening time of school.

For early closings, we expect that parents will institute their carpools, or other pick-up arrangements, as soon as this announcement is made in the media. We will attempt to contact each family via e-mail. Within 30 minutes after the announced closing time, students who have not been picked up will be put in a temporary Extended-Day program and every effort will be made to reach parents. We do not anticipate any charges for this temporary care; however, it is important for families to know that in these situations our Extended-Day staff are not available, and the faculty and administrative staff must supervise the students.

Everyone wants to get home in a timely manner, and we expect families to be responsive and make arrangements for pickup as soon as possible.

We may send your child home with a person you have designated on the Emergency Form. It is important that we have the most up-to-date information about your home and work phone numbers and early closing arrangements.

WAY TO GO, MARK AND FCS ALUMNI ATHLETES!

Mark is bursting with pride! This past week, the FCS Class of 2004 produced three "Athletes of the Year" in the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference (PVAC). Coleman O'Neill (brother of Olivia, James' 7/8) and Alissa Lapp were named the male and female "Soccer Players of the Year", and Simon Conrad won the individual "Male Cross Country Athlete of the Year" award. Coleman attends The Field School, Alissa attends Sandy Spring Friends School, and Simon attends Edmund Burke. Other schools in the PVAC include Washington International School, St.

Anselm's Abbey, Jewish Day School, Barrie School, McLean School, Covenant Life, and Montrose Christian.

Congratulations, Coleman, Alissa, Simon and Mark! See what our P.E. and athletic program can set in motion?!

Fall Fair Hooray!!

No question about it, the 2009 Fall Fair was a hit! FCS community-members brought their friends and neighbors to school on a wet and dreary day. But despite having to hold the event indoors, we raised over \$6,000 for the school. The PTO will decide how to allocate the funds to classrooms later this year.

The Fall Fair team has enjoyed running the fair for the last two years. We are looking for new leaders to shadow us at Fall Fair 2010. If you are looking to assume a leadership role at school and want an opportunity to run the best community event in the world, give one of us a call.

Once again, thank you for the support you, your friends and families provided to make Fall Fair 2009 a rousing success!

Sincerely,

The Fall Fair Team
Janet Dixon (202) 832-4874
Sieglinde Peterson (301) 345-4428
John Wolfrum (571) 220-5115

Green Tip of the Week

This winter, try out a couple of wood-alternative logs in your fireplace. They're cleaner burning, made of recycled materials, yet still give you that warm, cozy glow. Burning natural wood creates particulate matter (carbon monoxide, benzene, formaldehyde, etc...) which EPA says can amount to 80% of the air pollution in residential areas (indoor & out), particularly irritating to children and asthmatics. In fact, wood smoke is chemically active in the body 40x longer than tobacco. See the EPA's complete fact sheet on health effects of wood burning, plus efforts to ban them (mostly in CA) at <http://epa.gov/burnwise/pdfs/StrategiesDoc8-11-09.pdf> .

There's an alternative for those of us who can't give up our fireplaces (a gas fireplace, though a fuel-hog, is cleaner burning) -- logs made of recycled materials. Here's the skinny on some options:

Pine Mountain Logs are made of recycled sawdust and renewable wax -- 70-80% less emissions than regular wood and saves trees; \$17.50 per 6-pack at grocery stores.

Duraflame's Stax are made of natural waxes, oils, recycled sawdust -- 50% less emissions; no paper needed, comes with its

own lighting strip; \$20 per 6-pack.

Java-log is made of recycled coffee-grounds -- 70-80% less emissions than wood; diverts coffee waste from landfills; \$11.20 per 6-pack at java-log.com.

TerraCycle Fire Logs are made of wax & cardboard waste -- 78% less carbon monoxide than wood; \$15.99 per 4-pack at terracycle.net.

And if you have a stack-full of natural wood that you must get rid of, put a tarp on it to keep it dry -- wet wood doesn't burn as completely, so releases more pollutants.