

Friends Community School

Weekly Bulletin

December 4, 2009

Dear Hilary,

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD. . .

The holiday season is a wonderful time of year to express appreciation and thanks to those who make a difference in our lives. Many children look forward to the opportunity to become "secret holiday friends" to provide thoughtful, inexpensive gifts and affirmations to a classmate. For our school families, this might be an ideal time to consider a generous contribution to our Annual Giving Fund.

This year, we have a special opportunity to raise funds through a matching gift challenge: a number of parents and friends of the school have committed to a matching pool of \$10,000 to encourage others to give generously. The first \$5,000 of the fund will be released when we raise \$40,000; the remaining \$5,000 will be released when parent participation reaches 85%. Our goal of \$60,000 can make a significant difference in the quality of our staff development programs, the acquisition of educational tools or software, enriched opportunities for mini courses or activities, assemblies or programs featuring visiting artists/authors, or funding for financial aid. Please join the members of our Board of Trustees and Faculty who have already contributed, and make FCS a giving priority.

In Peace,
Larry

Extended Day - Winter Break

Extended Day will be providing all day camps on Monday, December 21; Tuesday, December 22; and Wednesday, December 23. We will be playing interactive games, creating unique arts & crafts, participating in a service project, and much more! Information and the registration form was sent via email earlier today. Please fill out the registration form and submit to the Front Office with a check attached no later than Wednesday, December 16, 2009. If you have any questions please contact the Director of Extended Day by phone (301-441-2100) or email (erin@friendscommunityschool.org)

Dates To Remember

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

Dec. 10 - (Gwynne, Mel. C.) - Field trip to Heartland Health Care, 12:45pm - 2:15pm

Quaker Corner

Drop Thy still dews of quietness till all our strivings cease.

Take from our souls the strain and stress and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of Thy peace.

J.G. Whittier

Upcoming Events

Dec. 15 - Parent Association (PA) Meeting

Dec. 18 - Holiday Performance - Noon Dismissal, **No PM X-Day**

Dec. 21-Jan 1 - Winter Break, No School

Winter is Upon Us

FCS follows 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. ***The name "Friends Community School" will not appear; just look for Prince Georges County and follow what the county is doing.***

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 staffers 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.

One Hour Late Opening: FCS starts at 9:20, No Morning Xday

Two Hour Late Opening: FCS starts at 10:20, No Morning Xday

One Hour Early Closing: All Grade Levels Dismissed at 2:00, No Afternoon Xday

Two Hour Early Closing: All Grade Levels Dismissed at 1:00, No Afternoon Xday

**Wednesdays: One Hour Early Closing: All Grade Levels Dismissed at 2:00,
No Afternoon Xday**

**Two Hour Early Closing: All Grade Levels Dismissed at 1:00,
No Afternoon Xday**

Home Team Advantage

Dear Parents:

Thanks to all the parents who attended our first ever meeting of the HomeTeamAdvantage. We had so many attending we had to change rooms at the last minute.

The response was fabulous---so many parents keenly interested in anything they could learn to help our students. Top interest was shown for more information and knowledge sharing on Executive Function & Organizational Skills, Reading & Dyslexia, Study Strategies & Memory Techniques, Giftedness & Genius, the Development of Interpersonal Communication Skills, as well as Technologies including Audio-books, and even the Joys and Challenges of Adoption. One parent has already volunteered to organize the return of Meredith Skeath, the Executive Function Coach who was so popular at the PTO Meeting last year. In addition, James Key and I have discussed working together to host a meeting on Study Strategies & Memory Techniques, so keep an eye out for futures notices of meetings of the HomeTeamAdvantage.

Yours in friendship,

Colleen

Pave A Path to the Playground

You can honor a person, place or idea by purchasing a paver with a message you create. The forms are on the main FCS website under community/fundraising. When we get a total of 55 orders, we can order the first batch for delivery and installation this spring.

Science Night

Science Night is on Tuesday, December 8th. We would love a couple of parent volunteers to help arrange for a food table, and to ask people to please bring a snack/beverage to share. We will start at 6:30 and end at 8:30. Your children will be setting up display boards/models in classrooms and the multi-purpose room. A few parents to help the children set up would also be very appreciated.

Pre-Holiday Show Parent Coffee/Gathering

You are cordially invited to other FCS parents, alums and friends for a holiday gathering /coffee between 9:00am and 10:30am on Friday December 18 in our multipurpose room. There will be craft vendors, pies, a selection of FCS items (surprise your FCSer!) and breakfast fare/pastries from the Upper Crust bakery for sale to benefit the FCS Annual Giving Fund. I don't need to tell you how important that fund is for keeping tuition low and giving the school the means to do all sorts of interesting things during this school year. Come connect with friends old and new...

Followed by the FCS Holiday Show 10:30am - 12:00pm. Questions? Please call Christine at 301-441-2100.

Spring Enrichment Activities

The Enrichment Program is looking for instructors to teach a robotics course and a woodworking course. If you or someone you know is interested and qualified, please contact Gwynne Brick at gwynne@friendscommunityschool.org no later than Friday, December 11th.

Typing Class

Did you know... that Melvin Schools, our IT assistant, is tapping his teaching background to initiate the wonders of proper typing technique to the 3/4s and the 5/6s. Ask your child to show you the starting position and his/her typing skills via the on-line typing program. This program, at www.kbr.com, allows them to work ahead if they so choose, and tracks their progress. Check it out!

Green Sale / Bake Sale

The 7th and 8th graders are sponsoring a green sale/bake sale on Sunday December 6th from 1PM until 4PM in the lobby. A limited number of poinsettias and wreaths will be available. Music and refreshments for all.

Ice Skating

Continue an FCS tradition by coming to ICE SKATING at Well's Ice Rink at 5211 Paint Branch Parkway after school on Fridays. The public skate session runs from 2:30 - 5:15 pm.

College Park Youth Orchestra

The College Park Youth Orchestra will present its first concert of the season this coming Sunday, December 6, 7:00 PM at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt MD 20770. The concert will feature short performances by both the Primary Ensemble and Intermediate Ensembles, and will be followed by a reception. Admission is free. Come enjoy the

music and show your support for this wonderful community organization. For more information about the College Park Youth Orchestra, please visit www.cpyo.net, or contact FCS parent Jennifer Shannon at jshan853@aol.com.

Escrip/Giant/Target

So easy to sign up and raise funds for FCS AT NO COST TO YOU!

Giant

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

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

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

Green Tip of the Week

Winter's here! If you're in the market for a new furnace or appliance, consider one that's earned EPA & DOE's Energy Star, which means it meets strict energy efficiency guidelines. Energy star furnaces aren't only better for the environment, they're also less expensive than their counterparts, will reduce your heating bill, and might qualify you for a tax credit. In 2008, people saved \$19 billion in utilities with Energy Star products and saved greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 29 million cars. Check out energy star products at www.energystar.gov and the tax credits at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index.

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