

Friends Community School

January 22, 2010

Upcoming Events This Week

Jan. 26 - (Jenny) 3/4, Field Trip to Smithsonian Air and Space Museum

Jan. 28 - (Jenifer) 3/4, Field Trip to Museum of National History, (Chris) 7/8, Field trip to President's Park, 7/8 - Lockout

Jan. 29 - (Michelle) 1/2, Reading Workshop Presentations, 8:30 - 9:10

Dates to Remember

Feb. 4 - Alexandra, Field Trip to Brookside Nature Center

Dear Hilary,

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD. . .

It is midyear progress report time at FCS. Teachers spent last Thursday and Friday reviewing notes, projects, and assessments to write thoughtful, detailed accounts of your child's progress in each of their courses of study. This is also a time for me to get to know your child better by reading each of these reports. Despite the few days of eye strain, I find many of these reports very helpful in understanding the levels of expectation and performance for each of our children. Please look for your child's report by the end of the week.

To celebrate the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. our entire school gathered for a morning of service at the county food bank facility. Parents, teachers, and students sorted through tons of potatoes to package them for distribution. This vital food is now being directed to area churches and food banks for people in need in Prince George's County. A hearty thank you to all parents who were able to drive and participate in this activity.

Many families have already reached out to the people of Haiti through donations to relief agencies of their choosing. Our faculty is looking into connections that we might have with agencies that are already at work, and how we might support their ongoing efforts. The need to support the survivors of this tragedy will be long-term, so we look for ways to educate our children about the crisis in Haiti and provide them opportunities to be helpful in this difficult time.

In Peace,
Larry

Re-Enrollment for next year, and Financial Aid From Cindy Mowery, Business Manager

Look soon for your child's re-enrollment packet for next year - you should receive it in the mail in the first week of February. Please be attentive to these upcoming deadlines:

- **Monday, February 15th financial aid application deadline**
- **Monday, March 1st deadline for return**

Enrollment Agreements

Information about applying for financial aid can be found on the FCS website (www.friendscommunityschool.org), and there is a link directly to TADS (our financial aid processor). When applying for financial aid, it is most helpful to our Financial Aid Committee if the TADS calculations are based on your 2009 tax returns, but if you cannot have that completed in time, your 2008 taxes will suffice.

I will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Feel free to e-mail me (cynthia@friendscommunityschool.org) or call (301.441.2100).

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

*From Christine Dunathan,
Director of Institutional Advancement and IT*

Annual Giving Fund

So far, 43% of FCS families have given to the Annual Giving Fund. When 85% of families participate, the school will receive an additional \$5,000! Please give, and get us to 85% parent participation!

**To Date: \$45,000 and 43% parent participation;
100% Board, Faculty and Staff**

**Goal: \$60,000 and 85% parent participation; 100%
Board, Faculty and Staff**

• staff development • software • mini-courses • visiting artists & scholars • financial aid • field trips • playground path • rain garden • classrm equipmt •

The FCS Annual Giving Fund - your participation makes it work!

Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign helps pay for our mortgage. If you have an outstanding pledge, we appreciate your payment. If you haven't yet given, please consider a gift this winter or spring. Thank you.

Playground Bricks

Playground bricks can be ordered by downloading a form from the Community section of the FCS main website, and sending your order in to the office. As soon as we have 55 orders, we can get our first shipment of pavers.

Green Tip: Recycle your Inkjet Cartridges!

Parent Association

Upcoming Events

Next PA meeting will be on WEDNESDAY (Not Tuesday!) night, February 17 from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Childcare will be provided for all children 3 years and older.

The PA has a new email address to help you identify our emails! Please note our address: fcs.pa.email@gmail.com.

The first annual FCS plant sale will be held the weekend of May 1! Please contact Ann Baker (Liam - Melanie B.) to assist with this promising undertaking.

IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING PA emails: please notify us at fcs.pa.email@gmail.com

7/8 Final Year Project

Parent Night - February 2nd

7/8 Parent night to discuss year end final projects. Larry, James, Chris, and Jordan will be explaining the year-end projects plan with teachers and student of the 7th and 8th grades. Don't miss this time to ask questions and talk with other parents about this wonderful experience for the children.

HomeTeamAdvantage

Dear Parents:

Thanks to four parents who have volunteered as sponsors, we have dates for the next two most requested meetings of the HomeTeamAdvantage, open to all interested FCS parents.

The first meeting is entitled, "Reading Isn't Magic" and will address the key parameters involved in the acquisition of reading skills. It will include information on obstacles to reading achievement, especially dyslexia. This meeting is particularly useful for the parents of Kindergarten through Fourth grades, but is open to all. The date is set for Thursday, February 11th at 7:00pm. Please RSVP to colleen@friendscommunityschool.org by midnight Wednesday, February 10th. As usual, the room will be assigned after a tally is made of the number of attendees and will be prominently displayed on a white board in the main lobby.

The second meeting is scheduled for the very next week and will address the issues of "Parenting the Gifted Learner." It is scheduled for Wednesday night the 17th of February. Please RSVP to colleen@friendscommunityschool.org by midnight Wednesday, February 16th. As usual, the room will be assigned after a tally is made of the number of attendees and will be prominently displayed on a white board in the main

lobby.
Thank you all for your incredible support of our own parents
support group.
Yours in friendship,
Colleen
