

Friends Community School

Weekly Bulletin

January 29, 2010

Upcoming Events This Week

Feb. 4 - Kindergarten, Field Trip to Brookside Nature Center, 5/6 - Foon Day

Dates To Remember

Feb. 11 - 1/2, The National Geographic Museum

Feb. 15 - No School

Feb. 17- PA Meeting @ 7:30pm

Feb. 19 - 3/4, Ice Skating Trip

Feb. 25 - Jenny, Greenbelt Pool, Jenifer, Air and Space Museum

Quaker Corner

The most precious thing...is gentleness...The greatest conquerors are those who overcome their enemies without strife.

Lao Tze

Dear Hilary,

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD. . .

I am never really sure what comprises a normal day at FCS; perhaps it was today. Michelle began her day with a Readers Sharing event with her class. Her first and second graders read books aloud and performed skits to a packed classroom of supportive parents. Halfway down the hallway, a group of interested parents and prospective kindergarten students gathered in the library. Students then moved to Gwynne's room where they participated in a variety of age-appropriate activities with Gwynne, Alexandra, Jenifer, and Colleen. Meanwhile, our consolidated kindergarten worked next door on projects and activities under the very able supervision of Donald, and subs Lisa Losito and Ally Zevon. In other locations in the building, our younger students were involved in math, or music, or writing, or basketball.

Pajama-clad seventh and eighth graders cleaned up from last night's "lock-in", met with advisors, and prepared for their day at FCS. Teachers of grades 5-8 agreed to spend today involved in service learning about Haiti. Multiage groups of students participated in sessions on Haitian history and culture, the dynamics of earthquakes, and plans for individual service projects. Videos and discussions focused on Haiti's history with Europe, the U.S., and slavery; Haiti's unique blend of culture through the words of a noted Haitian story teller; and plate tectonics at work. Each group of students rotated through the four 'classes' and they now are more informed about Haiti's urgent and long term needs. Over the weekend, many of our students will participate in our "Chores for Change" program to raise funds for Haitian relief. Many thanks to our teachers for late-night chaperoning and today's presentations.

Another group of prospective kindergarten students arrives tomorrow morning for screening, and the weather forecast includes light snow. Can't wait!

In Peace,

Larry

FCS 200th STUDENT!

FCS recently welcomed its 200th student! She is kindergartener Rachel Grupp, a wonderful girl who loves dramatic play, wearing pink ball gowns, books, and drawing. She lives in Takoma Park, and proclaims that she "really likes FCS, especially choice time, my teacher, and all my new friends."

With Rachel's admission, FCS has reached current capacity. We thank all who have helped and are helping to spread the good news of FCS! Stay tuned for admissions news (lookin' good!) next week.

Connie Belfiore
Director of Admissions and Outreach

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

The Annual Giving Fund needs your support...please give.

Goal: \$60,000 and 85% parent participation

To Date: \$45,000 and 45% parent participation

We ask every family to participate because everyone's kid benefits. Your kid is your priority - FCS should be too!

AND WE GET AN ADDITIONAL \$5,000 WHEN PARENT PARTICIPATION REACHES 85%.

Together we make it work! Thank you very much.

-- Becki Gitter and Jim Groves, AGF co-clerks

WHAT TIME IS IT? IT'S SUMMER TIME!

Well, certainly it is time to plan for summer time! And we trust that the [FCS Summer Camps](#) will figure prominently into those plans!

FCS Summer Camp brochures were sent home in backpacks two weeks ago. Already families from outside of FCS are calling to register! As you know, the camps are fascinating, fun, and multi-disciplinary. Directed by our own Melanie B, assisted by James (science), Donna (art), and Mark (sports), the camps are becoming more popular each year, and do reach maximum capacity.

So please consider seriously your summer plans, include FCS' Summer Camps in those plans, and sign up ASAP. This year, the themes for the Science & Art Camps are: *CSI: College Park; Bug-Eyed Fun; and Oh, I Want To Be An Engineer!* The Sports Camps are: *Recreation & Field Sports; Soccer & Recreation; and Lacrosse & Recreation.*

CIT and Extended Camp Programs are available. For further information, consult the brochure (copies available in the lobby, and on the website), and/or Camp Director Melanie B at melanieb@friendscommunityschool.org.

What time is it? It's Summer Camp time!

(Apologies to High School Musical! ;o)

SINGING DR. KING'S DREAM

On Saturday, January 16th, 39 students in grades 3rd through 6th represented FCS at the 19th Annual College Park Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. Students took the stage at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center to sing songs of Dr. King's dream and testament of hope for peace in a diverse world. A big "thank you" to all parents who gave of their time on a holiday weekend, and "congratulations" to all students who gave such a spirited performance, moving the crowd to smile and clap right along with you! FCS was truly very well represented!

To read more about the College Park Martin Luther King Tribute, including a quote from one of our very own students, you can visit the Gazette online at http://www.gazette.net/stories/01182010/prinnew135106_32594.php.

PARENT ASSOCIATION

1. 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.
2. The PA has a new email address to help you identify our emails! Please note our address: fcs.pa.email@gmail.com.
3. 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.
4. IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING PA emails: please notify us at fcs.pa.email@gmail.com.

MAGNET ART THANK YOU

Thanks to strong family participation, yeo-woman efforts of the art teachers, wonderful help from classroom magnet art coordinators, endless check handling by Cynthia and Hilary -- and our kids' creativity -- we raised very close to \$2,000 for the school's art program through magnet art sales! Here's how Donna and Sarah R describe their exciting plans:

We plan to use the magnet art funds to develop a ceramics program. Our plans include repairing the kiln and identifying a safe place to house it. We will keep you informed about our progress with this exciting endeavor!

Thanks very much to EVERYONE who participated!
Cheryl Martin and Janet Dixon, magnet art co-chairs

2010 FCS ART SHOWCASE

FCS students continue to impress us with their many artistic talents and abilities. It is for this reason that we are excited to announce the 2010 FCS Arts Showcase! Participants will be invited to showcase their artistic talents in a variety of mediums - from visual exhibitions to stage performance. The FCS Arts Showcase will be held on the evening of Thursday, March 18th. Visual arts will be on display beginning at 5:30 P.M. with a Talent Show performance to follow. More detailed information will be sent home at a later date.

Please keep an eye out for a Talent Show interest form. All students interested in performing an act must fill out this form and return it to Stacy by *Friday, February 12th!*

Green Tip of the Week

The FDA recently announced they had "some concern" about Bisphenol A (BPA)'s effect on the brain and behavior of fetuses, infants and children. How are concerned consumers to avoid this potentially toxic chemical? Following are 4 options:

- . Reduce the amount of canned foods and beverages you consume -BPA is used in the lining of most canned goods. Studies show beverage cans have the lowest BPA levels, while pasta and soup cans contain some of the highest levels.
- . Choose reusable water bottles that say "BPA free" or are glass or un-lined stainless steel.
- . Avoid plastic food containers made of polycarbonate, (#7 plastic in the triangle on the bottom). Polycarbonate is typically labeled PC or has the recycling symbol #7 on the bottom. Not all products with the #7 are polycarbonate, but this is a reasonable measure to take.
- . Don't put plastic in the microwave or dishwasher; discard old or scratched plastic food containers and bottles. When plastic containing BPA is scratched, the chemical may more easily leach into liquid or food.

For those with babies or small children:

- . Buy baby bottles that are labeled BPA-free. Many baby bottles are made with polycarbonate plastic which contains BPA. Soft or cloudy colored plastic does not contain BPA, nor do glass baby bottles. Companies such as Medela and Green to Grow sell BPA-free baby bottles.
- . Do not heat or cool baby bottles if they are made from polycarbonate plastic. When heated in a microwave, for example, BPA easily leaches from the plastic into the liquid in the baby bottle. Additionally, keep baby bottles away from the dishwasher, freezer, and even prolonged exposure to sunlight.
- . Choose powdered infant formula. BPA is used in the lining of metal formula containers, and tests show that BPA leaches into formula from the can.
- . For more information on BPA, see www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm064437.htm.



