



# Friends Community School

Dear Hilary,

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD. . .

With our return from the winter holiday break, we begin the second half of the year with 200 students-full enrollment. We are thrilled to reach this milestone for the first time, and recognize that in these economic times, we will need to continue to work hard on enrollment and retention to keep FCS filled with children who will benefit from a Friends education. Last night we held a very successful admissions recruiting evening in the Capitol Hill area, and today's Open House approached capacity despite a the winter weather and delayed opening for students. Prospective parents are moved by the school's mission, our environmentally sensitive building and program, the engagement and poise of our students, and the strong support or our current parents. A warm welcome to our new families and a Happy New Year to all.

Two hour delays present challenges to some families. While we recognize that some parents are anxious to drop off children and report to work, many of our teacher's travel plans are also affected by winter driving conditions. We have arranged for adult supervision for early drop-offs to be on duty at 10:00am under such conditions.

Larry

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## Dates to Remember

**January 14&15** - Report Writing, **No School**

**January 18** - MLKing Day, **No School**

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## SPRING ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

**SPRING ENRICHMENT BROCHURES ARE BEING SENT HOME TODAY.** We have many new offerings and hope that you find something that interests your child and fits into your schedule. The

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
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deadline for registration is Tuesday, January 19th. Take a look at our spring line-up.

Sign Language Gwynne Brick Grades 1-4	Math Games for K to 2 Michelle Utara Grades K-2	Learn to Sew - Pajama Party Jeanne Cloughley Grades 5-8	Critter Creations Ruth Miller Grades K-2	Clay Jenifer Weiss Grades 1-4
Debate and Public Speaking Douglas R. Kump Grades 3-8	Ballet Sharon Werth Grades 1-2		Baking Club Alexandra Whyte Grades K-4	Outdoors Club James Key and Sarah Ruggieri Grades 3-8
Drama Club Melanie Cobb Grades 4-8	Math Club Jordan Abramson Grades 5-8		Mixed Media with Donna Donna Jonte Grades 3-5	From Books to Film Club Chris Hill Grades 6-8
	Old Time Radio Melanie Baldwin Grades 5-8		Learn to Sew - Pajama Party Jeanne Cloughley Grades 5-8	
	Soccer Sarah Evans Grades 5-8		Soccer Sarah Evans Grades 5-8	

### Applying for Financial Aid

I know that as soon as the holidays were over, FCS parents sat down and immediately started working on their taxes, right? Good for you, because if you would like to apply for financial aid for the 2010-2011 school year, your '09 tax return will have helped you gather the necessary information to complete the application.

You may know from last year that financial aid applications should be submitted online, using TADS (Tuition Aid Data Services), our financial aid data processor. The website is [www.TADS.com](http://www.TADS.com). TADS' online service is encrypted, secure, and confidential.

TADS' analysis provides informative data to FCS' Financial Aid Committee, which makes the final award determinations.

In order to provide decisions to families as early as possible, the **deadline** for completing financial aid applications is **Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010\***. (February 15<sup>th</sup> is a federal holiday, but financial aid applications still may be submitted online at any time - up until midnight - on that day). All applications completed by this deadline will be considered. Applications completed after this date will be considered only if available funds have not been entirely distributed.

Completing the application also requires that you submit, by fax, some supporting documents including your 2009 tax return and W2. We hope that with advance planning, this will be possible for you. If it is not possible, your 2008 taxes may be substituted, although the data on which decisions are made will not be as helpful.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions. The TADS folks are also very willing and available to help, and they offer phone, e-mail, and live Web interactive support.

Further information can be found on the FCS website.

Cynthia Mowery, Business Office (ext. 126)

\* N.B.: The **Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>** deadline is a change from the deadline shown in the *Parent Handbook*. The date in the *Parent Handbook* is now obsolete and should be ignored.

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### Philanthropy Matters

I am thrilled to report that the Annual Giving Fund has reached \$40,000, releasing the first \$5,000 in matching funds. This is fantastic news! Thank you everyone who has donated so far - parents, faculty and staff, Board members, grandparents, parents of alumni, and friends of the school.

Every gift matters as we work our way to 85% parent participation and the second \$5,000 in matching funds. Our goal is \$60,000.

The Annual Giving Fund goes directly to work for the kids and their teachers. It also helps with school-wide items. One such project near and dear to our hearts is a drain for the excess water running across the driveway!

Our teachers and Board members know how important supporting the school is - all have given to the Annual Fund, for 100% teacher and Board participation. Please be a part of the reach for 85% parent participation and the additional \$5,000 in matching funds. Just 40% of parents have donated to date.

Your participation makes the Annual Giving Fund work! Gifts are tax deductible, and should be sent in to the office. Envelopes and a guide to giving are on the display case in the foyer. Or contact me at 301-441-2100.

Thanks.

-- Christine

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### Extended Day

Extended Day will be providing all day camps on Thursday, January 14 and Friday, January 15. 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 Wednesday, January 6.

Please fill out the registration form and submit to the Front Office with a check attached no later than Wednesday, January 13, 2010. If you have any questions please contact the Director of Extended Day by phone (301-441-2100) or email ([erin@friendscommunityschool.org](mailto:erin@friendscommunityschool.org)).

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### Enrichment Program Job Opportunity

The Enrichment Program is looking for a responsible adult to supervise children in the library from dismissal until after-school classes and clubs begin. Please contact Gwynne at [gwynne@friendscommunityschool.org](mailto:gwynne@friendscommunityschool.org) if you are interested.

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## FCS Students Featured at MLK, Jr. Tribute at University of Maryland

Friends Community School has been invited to participate in the 19th Annual College Park Tribute to commemorate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. It will take place at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center (CSPAC) on the University of Maryland campus on Saturday, January 16th, 2010 from 2-4 P.M. The program will include words of inspiration, music and dance performances, visual art exhibits and the participation of College Park's schools and many other groups in the celebration of the theme, "A Testament of Hope."

Several FCS students' work will be on display throughout the event, and students in grades 3 through 6 will be performing songs on stage. This event is open to the public and we encourage you to come out and support our students.

\*Please note that students in grades 3-6 need to arrive by 1:30 P.M. and should secure their own transportation. Permission forms are due to Stacy by Friday, January 8th.

## PA Meeting

The PA meeting this month will include the annual State of the School address, and a follow-up business meeting to close on some of the issues from November. We will also be introducing our NEW INTERIM co-clerk, Trudy Thornton! The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19 from 7 pm to 9 pm. Childcare will be available for ALL children ages 3 and up, but an RSVP is required for childcare.

## Dates to Remember

**January 16-** MLK, Jr. Tribute, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland

**January 19 -** PA Meeting

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