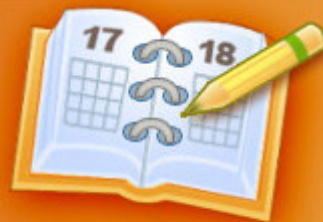


Friends Community School

Weekly Bulletin - April 30, 2010



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD. . .

Our building is alive with the excitement of today's presentation of the Primary Team play. Adults and children have been involved in various phases of preparation over the past few months, and are looking forward to this afternoon's production. We anticipate an overflow crowd of appreciative parents, grandparents, and friends .

In the past few days I have had the opportunity to share some thoughts with children, teachers, and parents. Having spent several days out of school at meetings in Annapolis and Philadelphia, I return to FCS confident in our direction and approaches. Our meetings covered such topics as ethical leadership, new directions in public schools, paying attention in a digital age, teacher development and supervision models, financial sustainability for small schools, and the latest thinking on homework. As I continue to grapple with the "new realities" of school management, I am encouraged by the commitment of our teachers, the support of our parents, and the engagement of our students. We look forward to our future with enthusiasm and confidence.

In Peace,

Larry

Philanthropy Matters

Grandfriends Day was a lovely day, full of grandfriends' appreciation for our teachers and our students. I enjoyed meeting many of your parents and other family members and friends who graced our school with their presence. Thank you to Louise Dickerson, Lisa Hohenemser and Angela McClain for the beautiful homemade pasta and other salads, and to Nancy Neville for the fantastic Upper Crust desserts. There was not a noodle nor leaf nor crumb left over. Monique Bourque, Roya Bauman, Sieglinde Peterson, Brett and Diane Fishburne, Cynthia Mowery, Donald Richardson, and Mr. Mark pitched in to make set-up a breeze; the 7/8s helped too, and had the tables cleaned up and stowed away in record time at the end of the day. Many thanks to everyone for making it such a successful event.

Upcoming Events This Week

May 4 - Kickball Game with Siena School, 11 AM

May 6 - (7/8), Spanish Field Trip

May 7 - In Service, **Noon Dismissal**, Ex-Day Available

Dates To Remember

May 12-14--Assataegue Camping Trip

The Annual Giving Fund is growing, but slowly. We are at 63% parent participation. PLEASE consider donating so we can receive the extra \$5,000 contribution! That would be especially meaningful as we round the corner into spring class trips, projects, and new initiatives.

We will be establishing a deer-detering boundary for the Monarch Sister Schools Program garden and edging the playground path **next Saturday, May 8, from 8am to 11am**. Volunteers from the College Park Rotary Club will be on hand to help out, and we need parents and kids to pitch in for some or all of that time, as your schedule allows! I am trying to forge a partnership with our larger community through the Rotary Club, which is a fascinating and accomplished group of people. Please help represent FCS, and let me know if you can join us.

The MSSP program is a cutting edge project that establishes habitat for the monarchs both here and in the Highland Biosphere Reserve in Mexico. I am proud to announce that we are the second school nationally to be given a sister school - actually we are deciding between two elementary schools in the Reserve - and will be communicating with the administrators in the selected school about getting our students exchanging experiences, successes and challenges with their gardens and other subjects. One day I hope we can visit that school and practice our Spanish and our global citizenship skills.

BERWYN HEIGHTS DAY IS HERE!

EVERYONE - PLEASE JOIN US TOMORROW
(Saturday, May 1)

TO REPRESENT FCS in the

BERWYN HEIGHTS DAY PARADE!

We need lots of FCSers there!

**We have a beautiful new banner to carry
and
many of us are wearing our FCS T-shirts or
sweatshirts
(although FCS shirts not required).**

May 13-14--1/2 Catocin

May 18 - PA Meeting

**May 19-21--Jenifer's 3/4
Turkey Run, 5/6 NYC**

**May 25 - Jenny, Field Trip to
Kennedy Center**

Saturday May 1

Meet at 11:30 a.m.

in the parking lot of the Berwyn Heights Elementary School, 60th and Pontiac St.

Parade starts at noon.

Join us also at the FCS table!

FCS Event Coordinators: Amelia Vignola and Molly Noone-Meng

Clothing Drive

to benefit Martha's Outfitters

the clothing center associated with Martha's Table. Martha's Outfitters provides free and low-cost clothing, linens, books, and children's supplies to those in need. It is open to the community five days a week. Martha's Table provides services such as food and clothing that help other non-profits to run their programs.

I am collecting women's, men's and children's bathing suits and summer wear of all sizes. Also we could use extra hangers. Please wash and fold clothing and drop it off in the box in front of school office. I am organizing this as the service component of my 7th grade project. Please call me with any questions: Chloe Martin-Poteet, 301-789-3248.

Please turn clothes in by May 14th

MENTOR FAMILIES WANTED!

NEW FCS FAMILIES WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL...

...if you would be willing to mentor an incoming family, sharing the details of how parents and students participate in this encouraging community!

We will welcome new parents at the PA Meeting on May 18, and new families at the New Family Picnic on June 13. We would like mentors to attend both events, although this is not necessary if you are willing to be a mentor family.

We do ask mentor families to set up a couple of meetings over the summer, when they can answer questions and get to know the new families. We try to match families with children of approximately the same age and gender, and who live in the same geographic area.

Being a mentor family is great fun, and gives new families a preview of FCS friendliness, as well as important information, before they start the school year.

Please e-mail Connie, at connie@friendscommunityschool.org, within the next three days, if you are willing to be a mentor family. Then she'll send to you the short list of the easy responsibilities and suggested activities. Thank you so much.

Green Tip of the Week

National Parks Earth Day was last week, but did you know it was also National Park Week? The National Park Service waived fees (sorry, just last week) to all parks, but some promotions are still ongoing. Check out the National Park Service's info at www.nps.gov/npweek and the non-profit National Park Foundation at www.nationalparks.org to find the perfect park for your family. You can explore nature and experience history with your family on any budget. The Find a Park sections on both sites allows you to find a park by state, topic of interest or activity preference. Try it and see why the National Parks are called "America's Best Idea."

NO AFTER-SCHOOL LESSONS ON FRIDAY, MAY 7th

Due to the scheduled early dismissal on Friday, May 7th, there will be no after-school lessons for students in the Instrumental Program. Please encourage your child(ren) to use this extra time to *practice.* The Spring Performance will be here before you know it!
