



SUNFLOWER CHRONICLE

Flower Valley Elementary School PTA Newsletter

November 18, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 3

President: Sandy Young

Treasurer: Mary Farrar

VP, School Affairs: Lorena Geddes

First VP: Beth N. Davis

Secretary: Anna-Lisa Walters

VP, Programs: Diane Roddy **VP, Ways & Means: Christina Shioutakon**

Calendar of Events

November 18th

Movie Night—6:30 PM

November 23rd

Restaurant Night @ Fuddruckers

November 24th & 25th

Thanksgiving—No School

December 6th

PTA Meeting—5th Grade Concert

December 9th

Winter Dance Party

The Sunflower Chronicle is a publication of the Flower Valley Elementary School Parent Teacher Association.

Editor: Beth N. Davis

Contact: BethDavis1983@gmail.com

Deadline for next edition:

Thursday, December 1, 2011

From the President

Writing this entry is hard this month. As Mrs. Holmes reported, last week children from our own school were racially discriminated against by a school bus driver. In addition to forcing African-American students to sit at the back of the bus, the bus driver was allegedly making the children pay money to talk and also turning up the sound on the radio while he wore ear plugs. We, as a PTA, a school, and a community are shocked.

The purpose of the PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children -- our children. Therefore, I am working with the school and local organizations, including the NAACP through the Parent Council and the Montgomery County PTA to address this situation. I encourage you to talk to your children about the recent events as I have to mine.

It's always during this time of year, and especially now with the recent events, that I try to get my kids to think about what they are thankful for. In our family we go around the dinner table and say one thing for which we are thankful. The answers usually revolve around Legos and TV, but at least they are thinking about it. While I am thankful for much in my life, I can honestly say that I am grateful for all you parents, volunteers, and school teachers/staff who are spending your time serving our kids. I am truly appreciative for all your support.

May you all have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Sandy Young
PTA President

NEXT PTA MEETING – 5th Grade Concert

The next PTA meeting is on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 7:00pm in the All-Purpose Room. We will address business issues at the beginning of the meeting and then the 5th grade concert will follow. Come on out to enjoy a wonderful show.

READ-A-THON Results

The Read-a-thon was a BIG success! We raised over \$14,000, all of which will go directly back to the school. Thank you to all who participated, especially the children who read over a hundred thousand minutes! Way to go!!

To keep up the reading, the Scholastic Book Fair can be accessed online until Nov 18. Check out the PTA website for more information.

<http://www.fvespta.com/bookfair.htm>

Phone Announcement System

The school and PTA have teamed up to start a new weekly phone announcement system to inform all families about the events and activities at the school. Expect your phone to ring on Sundays at 7:00pm.

Open PTA Chair Positions

Looking for a new way to get involved this year? Consider taking on one of these PTA chair positions:

- Spring Carnival – Co-chair
- Bring Your Family to School Week (committee members needed)
- Bylaws (committee members)
- Silent Auction (committee members)
- Hands-On-Science
- Reflections
- Safety

For more information on any of these PTA activities, please contact Sandy Young.

E-Mail List

If you have not already done so, please visit the PTA website at www.fvespta.com and sign up for the listserv in order to receive important

information from the PTA and other valuable resources.

Giant / Safeway / Harris Teeter / Target Programs

Please register your Giant, Safeway, Harris Teeter, and Target cards for this school year. It takes only a few minutes and can help our school earn money for a variety of educational needs. Just sign up using your Safeway, Giant, Harris Teeter, and Target card numbers, designate our school and Flower Valley will earn CASH for all of your purchases. For more information, visit www.fvespta.com.

Box Tops for Education/Campbell's Labels

In 2010-2011, Flower Valley PTA earned over \$700 from Box Tops! Please continue to clip and send them in. We are no longer tracking classes, so you don't need to label the bags or split the bags between your Flower Valley children. Just put them in the box in the hall, outside the office! We are also collecting Campbell's Labels, so you can send those in too!

Want to help?

Keep a baggie in your kitchen. As you use the participating brands, tear off the Box Tops. Send them in with your child each month so they don't expire! Ask grandparents and other relatives to clip them too.

Want to do a little more?

Before you send them in, check to make sure that none of them are expired. Please throw those away, and jot a note saying that you've checked them for expiration dates! Separate the Box Tops from the Campbell's Labels.

Want to do even more?

Count your not-expired Box Tops and put them in groups of 50, either with rubber bands or baggies. Your 5 minutes of effort will save the coordinators lots of time later.

Thank you!
Sarah Beswick
Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels
Coordinator

FVES PTA WEBSITE

Check out the NEW and improved website! You can access it from the main Flower Valley ES school site, or direct at <http://www.fvespta.com>. The site has current information and is updated regularly. Check it out today!

BINGO Night

We had our first BINGO Night in October. The kids won prizes, and raffles and stood up for the B11 dance! Thank you to all who helped out, especially Jose from KAH and Mr. Bilodeau for calling the numbers.

Mark your calendars for the next BINGO Night on January 20, 2012.

COOKBOOK

As the temperatures drop, do you find yourself wanting soup and chili to keep warm? For warm (and cold) weather recipes, be sure to reserve your copy of the Flower Valley Cookbook! From appetizers to desserts, there are many recipes to keep you busy in the kitchen. Check out the website for more details.

<http://www.fvespta.com/cookbook.htm>

ORIGINALWORKS

Originalworks art orders will shortly be coming home with your children. Please email Pat Schaefer at patschaef@aol.com with any missing items or concerns you may have. Thank you all for supporting your children's artwork through this program.

Homework Tips

November starts the beginning of the second marking period. We all know that keeping up with homework will help our kids do well in school. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests the following tips to develop good homework and study habits for your kids:

- Create an environment that is conducive to doing homework. Youngsters need a permanent work space that offers privacy.
- Schedule ample time for homework.
- Establish a household rule that the TV set stays off during homework time.

- Supervise computer and internet use.
- Be available to answer questions and offer assistance, but never do a child's homework for her.
- Take steps to help alleviate eye fatigue, neck fatigue and brain fatigue while studying. It may be helpful to close the books for a few minutes, stretch, and take a break periodically when it will not be too disruptive.
- If your child is struggling with a particular subject, and you aren't able to help her yourself, a tutor can be a good solution. Talk it over with your child's teacher first.

Science Fair

What will you investigate this year?
Outer space? Plants? Weather? Electricity?
Robots? Dinosaurs?

The Flower Valley Science Fair will be held on February 2, 2012. It's open to all students (required for grades 4,5).

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Kristy Johnson at joh1311@comcast.net.

Spirit Wear

We are rolling out new spirit wear for the kids! The Flower Valley Bulldog and Frog will be rockin' on the new Royal Blue shirts – our school color! The shirts will be on sale soon!

FLES Program

Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES) is an exciting language and culture program providing quality language instruction in Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and French before and after school for children in Kindergarten - 6th grade.

If you are interested in having your child take a foreign language class at FVES, please fill out the survey on the website at <http://www.fvespta.com/forms.htm> *no later than NOVEMBER 28TH* so that we can help bring FLES to FVES in January 2012!!

We will need a minimum number of students to bring FLES to FVES. Thanks in advance for your interest and many thanks to those parents who have returned the survey!!