



SUNFLOWER CHRONICLE

Flower Valley Elementary School PTA Newsletter

October 14, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 2

President: Sandy Young

Treasurer: Mary Farrar

VP, School Affairs: Lorena Geddes

First VP: Beth N. Davis

Secretary: Anna-Lisa Walters

VP, Ways & Means: Christina Shioutakon

VP, Programs: Diane Roddy

Calendar of Events

October 15th

Bingo Night—7 PM

October 20th

Restaurant Night @ Fuddruckers

October 21st

MTSA Convention—No School

October 28th

First Marking Period Ends
Help the Homeless Walkathon
Fall Festivals in Classrooms

October 31st

Professional Day—No School for students

November 7th-11th

Scholastic Book Fair @ FVES

November 10th & 11th

Early Release Days
Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

Editor: Beth N. Davis

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Deadline for next edition:

Friday, November 4, 2011

From the President

BOO! Fall is here and the chill in the air has returned. Our family is spending time outside by checking out the new Wheaton Regional Park playground, camping, and going to the pumpkin patch. What are you doing to celebrate autumn's return?

October is National Fire Safety Month. The National Fire Protection Association recommends making a Home Fire Escape Plan for your family. This would include drawing a map of your home, choosing a meeting place outside where everyone can gather once they've escaped, and posting your escape plan on the refrigerator to practice twice a year. Check out <http://www.nfpa.org> to make your plan.

The Read-a-thon is a BIG success! While the fundraising totals are being tallied, we can report that 2/3 of the school participated with the students reading over 112,000 total minutes. A HUGE thank you goes to all the teachers and parent volunteers who helped with Family Reading Night. We read and exchanged books, spent family time together, and enjoyed milk & cookies. Keep on reading!

The new and improved PTA website is ONLINE! Check out the latest PTA News, Volunteer information and Events. Go to <http://www.fvespta.com> today.

Finally, as Halloween approaches, we are reminded to Trick-or-treat in groups with trusted adults, to light up the night with flashlights, glowsticks, and reflective tape on costumes to be seen, and to examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Be safe and have fun!

Sandy Young
PTA President

Open PTA Chair Positions

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

- MCCPTA Delegate
- Spring Carnival – Co-chair
- School Dance Party - Winter
- SGA Parent Representative
- Bring Your Family to School Week (committee members needed)
- Spirit Wear
- Bylaws (committee members)
- FLES – Foreign Language Program
- Hands-On-Science
- Reflections
- Safety

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

Read-a-thon

The PTA Readathon, which ran from Sept. 19th through Oct. 6th has proven to be a fun and exciting fundraiser for all of the children.

Dozens of families crowded the halls of Flower Valley for our first annual Family Reading Night and thousands of minutes were read by Flower Valley students. At the time of publishing, donations were still being accepted and we plan to announce winners very soon!

Bylaws Committee

It is time for the PTA to renew our Bylaws. Would you like to help? We are forming a Bylaws committee to review and submit any Bylaw changes to the Maryland PTA. Please contact Anna-Lisa Walters at annalisaf@hotmail.com if you can help!

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.

Listen and Learn Events

Meet the New Superintendent – 7-8:30pm

October 18: Long Branch Community Center

October 19: Wootton HS

November 1: Damascus HS

November 7: Wheaton HS

November 21: Sherwood HS

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! Please send them in now. Our first submission deadline of the year is November 1!

- **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

Restaurant Night

Our next restaurant night will be held on Thursday, October 20th from 5 -9:00pm at Fuddruckers on Rockville Pike. The address is 1592 Rockville Pike, which is across from Congressional Plaza.

We look forward to seeing you!

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.

Silent Auction Committee Forming

Due to the success of last year's Silent Auction, the PTA Board has decided to make this a yearly event. This year's event will be held during the Flower Valley ES Carnival. We will hold our kickoff event during the first week of November.

To join this committee, please contact Beth Davis at BethDavis1983@gmail.com.

Bring Your Family to School Week

The FVES PTA is forming a steering committee for a proposed implementation of the National PTA's "Bring Your Family to School Week." Take Your Family to School Week is celebrated each February to pay tribute to PTA's legacy of building family-school partnerships. PTA Take Your Family to School Week will be held **February 12-18, 2012** with the purpose of expanding and enhancing family engagement in schools across the country.

Please contact Beth Davis at BethDavis1983@gmail.com for more information or to join this committee.

MCCPTA News

Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations had a lot to report at the first Delegate's Assembly held on September 27. MCCPTA serves by advocating and supporting the mission of our local PTAs. A few major resolutions were proposed for review by the committees and will be voted on at the next Delegate's Assembly on October 25. The proposed resolutions are below. If you have questions or for more information, visit

<http://www.mccpta.com/index.html> and/or contact Sandy Young or David Lacki.

1. MCPS Operating Budget for 2012 school year Priorities Request
2. Co-Location of County Services at MCPS Schools
3. Teenage Curfew in Montgomery County

Fall Scholastic Book Fair

To the Book Fair and Beyond: Reading is Out of This World! The fall book fair is coming November 4-11. Promote literacy, start your holiday shopping early, support our school, and get involved! More information will be sent in backpacks soon.

Hours are:

Monday Nov. 7, 8:20a-4:30p
Tuesday Nov. 8, 8:20a-4:30p
Wednesday Nov. 9, 8:20a-3p, and 6p-8p (Family Night)
Thursday Nov.10, 8:20a-6p
Friday Nov. 11, 8:20a-3p

Or go ONLINE from November 1-18. The Online Book Fair makes it possible for friends and family out-of-town to get books for our kids, teachers, and Media Center. Avoid the crowds by shopping online, too. Shipping is **FREE**, although 6% tax must be collected. Your online items will be bagged and distributed to you from FVES.

Go to:

<http://www.scholastic.com/scholasticbookfairs/2894885>.

Volunteers are needed!

Please contact Tracey Miller at tracymail17@gmail.com if you are available.



Original Artworks

Once again FVES has selected Originalworks to provide a very special and unique way to preserve your child's artwork. Our art teacher, Mrs. Choi has worked very hard with our children on special pieces of art that can be transferred to a variety of products.

Your child's artwork will be coming home in a plastic bag along with information about Originalworks. There are lots of products to choose from. New this year are a travel mug and bamboo tote bag. The due date for orders is **October 26**. Orders will be filled and ready for shipment in time for the upcoming holiday gift giving season.

Please return your child's artwork along with payment in the original plastic bag. **To make it even easier, tax is included in the prices listed.** All questions and concerns can be directed to Pat Schaefer (301) 929-3050 or patschaef@aol.com. Thanks so much for supporting this program.

FVES Community Cookbook

RECIPES NEEDED!! The PTA is putting together a cookbook full of recipes from our families and staff. We want your recipes to make this a success and a great resource for family meals and entertaining.

The best way to submit a recipe is by logging onto: www.gandrublishing.com enter the user name: **FVES** and the password: **cookbook** then click "Add a Recipe"

For more information, please contact Heather Poulin at hspoulin@msn.com.

Food Allergies

Excerpted Article from the National PTA

The first day of school is a time of excitement for most students and parents. But for the families of children with food allergies, this time also can bring fear of exposure to foods that trigger allergic reactions. The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) estimates that approximately 2.2 million school-age children suffer from food allergies.

"Managing food allergies in schools requires a team effort between staff, parents, students and the child's allergist," said Anne Munoz-Furlong, chair of the AAAAI Adverse Reaction to Foods Committee. "Reactions can occur on the first day of school, so it is best to meet and develop a management plan a few weeks before school starts."

The AAAAI recommends the following back-to-school strategies for parents of food-allergic children:

Identify the risk. An allergist/immunologist is the best-qualified medical professional to diagnose and treat food allergies. Once an allergy trigger is identified, an allergist/immunologist can provide detailed information on how you can help your child avoid it.

Communicate with school staff. Before school begins, meet with your child's teacher, principal, school nurse, and other staff to discuss allergy triggers and reactions. Prepare a food allergy action plan to keep on file at the school. Include a photo of your child to simplify identification.

Plan for safety. If necessary, work with school administrators to create allergy-free dining areas, such as a peanut-free table in the cafeteria. Send safe treats from home for classroom parties, field trips, and other activities.

Explain the danger. Talk with your child about the dangers of his or her food allergies. Talk about safe and unsafe food. Remind your child not to share lunches or accept offers of food from classmates. Teach your child to notify an adult immediately if he or she eats something that could, or has begun to cause an allergic reaction.

Ensure medication is available. Work with school healthcare providers to ensure physician-approved medications are available to your child. Mild reactions often require treatment with antihistamines. Children at risk for severe reactions should have injectable epinephrine within reach. Have your child's physician provide written instructions for administering epinephrine and confirm that school staff understand their responsibility to act quickly and know how to administer the medications. Medications also should be available at all off-campus school events.

The AAAAI offers food allergy fact sheets, educational brochures, action plan templates, and other resources at www.aaaai.org.