



Finley's News

A Publication of the FPS PTA
"PTA-Every child, one voice."



Week of May 11, 2015

End of the Year Wrap-Up

Our last newsletter focuses on some of the events and contributions made possible by the efforts of the PTA. Thank you for a great year and for supporting the FPS PTA!

Note from Our Principal

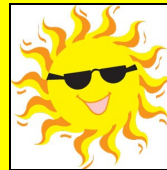
It's hard to believe the end of the school year is here, and what a fantastic school year it's been here at FPS. I can't thank you all enough for all your support of our work here at school this year. Our fantastic teachers and staff have done a wonderful job with all our students this year, and we couldn't have done it without your support. We're especially proud of our 2nd graders who will be moving on to Farragut Intermediate in August. It's always hard saying goodbye to our boys and girls, but we know they will do great things as they transition to 3rd grade. As we wind down the year, I'd like to share a few reminders with you.

Make sure to check our lost and found in the back of the cafeteria if your child has misplaced or left anything at school this year. All clothing and other items left in the lost and found bins will be donated this summer. Please remember also to check our website regularly over the summer. We'll be posting information about summer office hours as well as dates and times for "Meet the Teacher" and "Parent Information Nights" on the website soon. From our FPS family to yours, we wish you all a safe, joyful, and restful summer and look forward to seeing our new 1st and 2nd graders, along with our new group of kindergartners, back for another wonderful year of learning in August. - *Gina Byrd, Principal*

School-Wide Pre-Summer Fun Days

Let's get the summer fun started early! Here are some fun days for next week.

- Mon, 5/18** - Crazy Hair Day
- Tues, 5/19** - Dress like Mrs. Byrd or Mr. Cottrell Day
- Wed, 5/20** - Hat Day



Car Door Openers

5/18 - Webster, Sharp, Moore

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents, families, and groups that support the Car Safety Program and help open doors in the rain, the cold, and the sunshine. With your help, we are able to ensure that our little ones arrive at and leave from school quickly and safely. We appreciate all of your help! - *Nina McClintock, Car Safety Program*

Upcoming Dates to Know

May 21 - Last Day of School for Students (Half Day)

Note from Our PTA President



This is my last year here at FPS for the PTA, and with sadness and gratitude I would like to say thank you to FPS and FPS PTA. Parents who have children still at FPS next year, please appreciate how amazing this administration is. The office staff, the school staff, and the teachers are so wonderful and caring, and they make this a truly special and inviting place for your children to come to every day.

As you look back on this past year, please remember all the great programs, contests, parties, events, prizes, and celebrations FPS PTA has had for our children. I could not have asked for a better FPS PTA Board, and I'm forever grateful for all the things they do every day to make FPS a better place for our kids. Although these only touch on all the things they do, here are some examples of activities of the PTA this year: they have made our school look wonderful, opened hundreds of car doors, treated hundreds of boo boo's (real or not), had a great and FUN Fall Festival for our community, had a movie night, author visit, and chemistry show for our students and families, collected thousands of box tops for money, collected peanut butter and clothing for the needy, provided backpacks full of food for children, provided presents at Christmas for those who might not have had any, had a not-for-profit Secret Holiday Shoppe for fun, paid for school items not paid for by Knox County, helped open a thousand Go-Gurts in the cafeteria, made wonderful T-shirts for our kids to wear, made a beautiful yearbook, helped the school library run smoothly, communicated with parents and made a fun website to keep them involved, paid for new items for the Gym, Music, Art, Computer Lab, and ESL, and last but not least, made this wonderful newsletter. The PTA has always thoughtfully used the funds raised and donated to us to maximize the benefit to our children and to touch the most children possible.

Finally, thanks to you, all the parents, who volunteered when and wherever you were able. Whether it was sending in food or baked goods, sending in extra donated money, or giving of your time, the PTA would not be able to have any of these programs without you. We truly have the best school in the world. - *Arlene Driver, FPS PTA President*

Arlene Driver, PTA President
Gina Byrd, Principal
Keith Cottrell, Assistant Principal



Ann Norwood, Newsletter Editor

A Big Year for FPS Student Contests!

Thank you to all the students, families, and FPS staff who supported our three annual Student Contests in Citizenship Literature Essay, Safety Poster, and the National PTA Reflections Arts Program. We received over 20 entries at FPS, with five students going on to win awards at Knox County Council! We are also very proud to have Ms. Eva Rogers go on to win an Award of Merit in the TN State Reflections Program. All our contestants did a great job sharing their talents with the FPS community!

We hope to have even more entries next year. The 2015-2016 contest themes have been announced, so go ahead and be planning your submissions this summer. **CREATE...ENTER....BE RECOGNIZED!**

Citizenship Literature Essay: "Our Wonderful Flag."

Safety Poster: "Safety Around the World."

Reflections Theme: "Let Your Imagination Fly!" -*LeighAnna Colgrove, FPS Student Contests Chair*



Hospitality Committee



The FPS Hospitality Committee hosted monthly events for the staff to show our appreciation. We tailgated, tasted chili, enjoyed a Mexican feast, sampled soup, and enjoyed salads and lunches from Aubrey's. Thanks to everyone who sent in items to make these events a success!

- *Jessica Denton, Hospitality Coordinator*



FPS Secret Holiday Shoppe

Another successful event hosted by the PTA this year was the Secret Holiday Shoppe. The Secret Holiday Shoppe was not a fundraiser but simply an event for the children to enjoy. This event allowed children to buy presents on their own to allow independence and to create lasting memories! Many parents have said what a wonderful experience it was for their child - truly a life-long memory for the whole family!



FPS Clinic

The clinic at FPS is staffed by trained parent volunteers. **We are always in need of volunteers, and you do not have to have a nursing background to help out.** We need people who enjoy working with the kids. The East TN Children's Hospital began sponsoring the training this school year. Currently, we have 15 active volunteers that have collectively given over 500 hours of their time this year!

Since we have such a large student body at FPS, the clinic is a vital service that the PTA sponsors. By the end of February, our clinic had over of 2,000 student "encounters." These encounters could be applying band-aids or ice packs, or having a comforting place for a sick child to rest.

Having the clinic open every day is a huge help to the school nurse and office staff as it helps free up their time and resources. **There are two upcoming training dates this summer (6/4 and 7/2),** so please e-mail next year's coordinator, Jennifer Toops at jennifertoops@gmail.com for more information about volunteering in the clinic. -*Sara Croley, Clinic Coordinator*

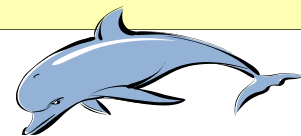


Cafeteria Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in the FPS cafeteria this year! Our volunteers help to make sure the students have everything they need to enjoy their lunches in the time available. Examples of things our volunteers help with are opening food containers and providing napkins and utensils.

The children love to see their parents and grandparents helping out at the school and introduce them to their classmates. The cafeteria volunteers have generously given over 600 hours to the school this year!

- *Cheryl Eddy, FPS PTA Cafeteria Volunteer Coordinator*



Spirit Wear

Take a walk around FPS, and you will see many students and teachers showing their Dolphin pride. The Spirit Wear Committee designed, sold, and distributed over 685 T-shirts, hoodies, magnets, and staff shirts this year. Through our sales, we were able to raise nearly \$4,000 for our school. Thank you for your support. Go Dolphins!

-*Wendy McDonnell & Christina Kutz, Spirit Wear Coordinators*

Collections Committee

And the final Collections classroom winners for this school year are....

K - Trent (18,525 points **WINNER**), Stackhouse (15,486 points), Odom (14,451 points)

Gr. 1 - Ford (28,452 points **WINNER**), Luttrell (28,175 points), Gagley (15,123 points)

Gr. 2 - Webster (15,788 points **WINNER**), Clifton (14,227 points), Gainer (12,178 points)



The winning classrooms will be awarded a special "Collection Party Celebration," and their teachers will be awarded free classroom supplies.

The biggest winner is of course FPS! Because of your hard work, this year FPS's grand donation total was over **\$5,500** from Box Tops, Publix, Target, Tyson and recycled cartridges. You turned in over **23,000** Labels for Education Points which, along with the Ingles Tools for Schools money, will be used to purchase classroom supplies. The thousands of Coke codes you collected were used to buy supplies for the P.E. Department.

Lastly, we want to thank the Collections Committee who spent hours every month counting and sorting: Amy Olson, Dorry Floyd, Monica Dupree, Daniela Cambie, Courtney Freeman, Paige Walker, Karen Harper, Marcie Baker, Tiffany Shacklock, Lindsay Metcalf, Cindy Shields, Nikki Hickman, Linda Childress, Cammy Kromer, Kim Herrington, Amber Aboulfaida, Paige Kohlmyer, Brandi Wynkoop, and Cynthia Catchpole. **GREAT JOB, FPS FAMILIES!!!**

-Rhonda Wedemeyer, FPS Collections

Library Corner



The FPS Library wants to thank our library volunteers for the 35-65 hours that they volunteer each month. Without them we could not circulate 300-500 books a day to our voracious little readers! And yes, apparently from testing this week, we have found that some of them know what words like *voracious* mean! We also want to thank the PTA for generous monetary donations each year. This year, we used this money to purchase much-needed library supplies (including printer toner cartridges) so that our students can print out their Accelerated Reader (AR) quiz reports and research information. We also bought AR ribbons and incentives. Thank you so much for helping us to make our library a better place for our kids!

If you would like to be one of our library volunteers next year, you may email Sarah Barnard at sarah.barnard@hotmail.com.

- Wendy Lesmerises & Amy Hussar

Special Programs

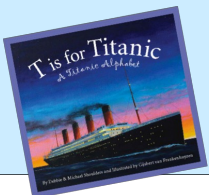


FPS PTA provided the following special programs for students and families this year:

- **Nov. 5** - Musician Visit, Sean McCullough
- **Dec. 5** - Family Movie Night w/ Popcorn and Drinks ([A Muppet Christmas Carol](#))
- **Jan. 30** - Author Visit, Michael Shoulders
- **May 12** - Dr. Al Hazari's "Magic of Chemistry" Family Show followed by PTA Icecream Social

All programs and snacks were paid for with FPS PTA money.

-Amy Bush, Special Programs Coordinator



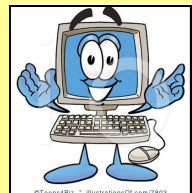
Technology Corner

A revamped website is available at <http://fpspta.org/>! There is information about PTA, School Events, Fall Fest, and Contests. There are also links to the Newsletter and helpful websites such as a direct link to the monthly cafeteria menu!! Make sure to check it out. Also, be sure to like us on Facebook because FPS PTA updates are posted regularly regarding school and PTA events. Another way to stay in touch is to follow us on Twitter @FarragutPrimary. Take advantage of all of the ways to receive important school information!

-Kelly Neal, Webmaster



www.fpspta.org





Citizenship Committee

The Citizenship Committee has two main projects each year, the Clothing Drive and the Peanut Butter Drive. This year's **FPS Fall Clothing Drive** was a huge success filling two refrigerator-sized boxes with clothing, socks, and underwear for the Knox County Clothing Center. Established by PTA schools in the 1930's, the purpose of this project is to provide Knox County students the clothing needed to attend school on a daily basis. Knox County school children that visit the Clothing Center receive new and gently-used clothing. This helps to improve a child's self-esteem which leads to improved educational readiness and a willingness to attend school on a regular basis. Clothing Center volunteers usually see 1000+ children every month.

The **Jason Jablonski Memorial Peanut Butter Drive** was established in memory of Jason Jablonski, son of James & Diane Jablonski, long time advocates of Knox County Children and Youth and supporters of Knox County Council PTA. This event was another outstanding achievement as Farragut Primary School collected **657** pounds of peanut butter for Second Harvest Food Bank!

- Jennifer Kuhn, Citizenship

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival is FPS's biggest fundraiser, and this year's event raised over \$36,000 for our school! Between company donations, a silent auction, a bake sale, lunch, and ticket sales, we raised a lot of money for our school. Our Silent Auction made over \$9,000 this year! The top two baskets from the auction included: firepit/accessories basket (Ms. Williams' class) and a John Black photography basket (Ms. Proffitt's class). Most of all, everyone had a great time while raising money for our school!

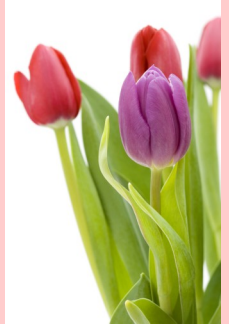
We are still in search of a Fall Festival Chair for next year. If you're interested in learning more about this exciting way to help our school with its biggest fundraising event, please email Marshanda Pinchok @ mpinchok@charter.net.

-Marshanda Pinchok, 2014-15 Fall Fest Chair



Grounds Improvement

The FPS PTA has a grounds committee that works hard to keep our school looking beautiful. This year, the FPS PTA paid for all the clean-up and mulch at the start of school for Fall and Winter Clean-Up. PTA also paid for the new laurel shrubs that were planted this year along the fence on the playground/car-rider side of the building. PTA also paid for and planted 200 more tulip bulbs around the school grounds to add to those that had been planted last year. In addition, the PTA will spray in the summer for weed control. We also change the planters out front to seasonal flowers several times a year. The grounds are a very visible way to see our PTA dollars at work.



-Carla Sexton, Grounds

A Big Dolphin Thanks!

Thank you *Kids in Need Foundation* for donating 50 books to our *Reading Champions Book Club*. The students loved having books to take home and read with their families. We couldn't have done it without you!

-Jelena Browning, School Social Worker

Membership Committee



The 2014-15 Farragut Primary School PTA Membership drive was a huge success! Over 1,000 individuals joined the PTA, including 100% of our teachers. We were recognized by the Knox County PTA for having over 100% of our school join the PTA.. The money raised by joining the PTA goes to better our schools and help educate our children!

-Teresa Puterbaugh, Membership Coordinator

Farragut Primary School prepares students to be lifelong learners and responsible, caring citizens.