

Franklin Middle School PTA

"every child.one voice."

August/September, 2010

Welcome Back

Summer is flying by, and by the time you receive this, there will be only a few weeks until school begins. I look forward to another year of working with the PTA.

One of our goals for this school year is to increase our PTA membership by 50%--a rather lofty goal, but one that I hope we can achieve. To better help us reach our goal, I am dedicating the bulk of this first newsletter to telling you about some of the PTA programs and why it is so important that parents join the PTA.

The PTA at Franklin

Middle School is an integral part of your child's middle school experience. We help to fund the after school clubs, we hold staff appreciation events, we assist with field trips, fund the cultural arts program, run the school store, fund college scholarships, hold "Fun Raisers" for the students, and much, much more.

Take a look at all we do, and you will agree we are worth your support. I trust that you, like me, feel that the PTA deserves 100% parent participation, either by joining, volunteering or

both.

I want to welcome Mrs. Charlyne Maul, our new Principal, to FMS. I recently had the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Maul to discuss the PTA's goals and how the PTA and school can be mutually beneficial. You can read about Mrs. Maul on page 4 in our "Spotlight" section.

I look forward to meeting everyone at Back to School night, and I'm always available to answer any questions you have.

Donna Ward
PTA President

Inside this issue:

PTA Membership	1
Fundraising	2
After School Clubs	2
Direct Donations	2
Fun Raisers	2
Spirit Wear	3
School Store	3
Affinity Programs	3
Calendar	4
Spotlight FMS	4

PTA Membership

Have you joined the PTA? If I see you at school, I may will be asking you this question. To me, PTA membership is the very least we can do to help support our children and make their school days a little bit better and brighter. PTA Membership costs only \$9.00 for the first family member and \$6.00 for each additional family member. That's only \$1.25 a month for a

husband and wife membership!

PTA membership doesn't just benefit the students, but here at FMS it benefits the PTA member as well. All PTA members receive this newsletter on a monthly basis. Our PTA newsletter is filled with information on the PTA, extracurricular school-wide activities, and much more. As an added incentive to join the PTA,

we are now offering discounts on our "Fun" Raisers and our Spirit Wear items to PTA members.

Remember that joining the PTA gives us a bigger voice, both locally and nationwide; and your membership does not commit you to volunteer. Be an advocate for your child—join the PTA.

If you enjoyed this issue of the PTA newsletter, make sure you join the PTA. Future monthly newsletters will be sent to PTA members only via e-mail. Don't delay, join today!

Fundraising (It's not a Dirty Word!)

This year we are going to try to raise the bulk of our fundraising dollars through one fundraiser to be held in the fall through Mid-Atlantic Fundraising. Last year's Spring Fundraiser (Gianni's Pizza) brought in a profit of only \$1,500; therefore, we are dropping that fundraiser. We will only add a Spring Fundraiser if we fall short of our goal in the fall.

Students will attend a Fall Fundraiser Kickoff assembly on September 22 and will be given Fundraiser Packets to bring home. Please mark this date in your

calendar and make sure you tell your child to bring their fundraiser packet home.

ALL STUDENTS WHO SELL 10 ITEMS OR MORE WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR FALL FUNDRAISER AFTER-SCHOOL PARTY TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER.

Last year over 150 students attended the party and were treated to free snow cones and cotton candy and had chances to play games and win prizes. It was a lot of fun!

The fundraising products available include gift wrap, calendars, candy, bath and spa products, gift items, kitchen gadgets, magazine subscriptions/renewals, candles and more!

Additionally, you will be able to order products online and orders over \$75.00 have free shipping.

Last year this fundraiser accounted for almost 50% of our entire income, but as I stated earlier, we want this to be our only fundraiser, so we are asking for 100% parent participation.

After School Clubs

Have you heard about the clubs? Franklin Middle School offers approximately 25 different after school clubs for students. These clubs are offered by faculty who are generous with their time and are open to all FMS students with some exceptions. For instance, in order to be in the Jazz Band Club, you need to play a specific instrument. Also, some clubs are only offered for certain grades, such as the 8th Grade Basketball

Club.

If you want to keep your student interested in social issues, sports, music, the arts, politics, culture or academics, then you need to check out the clubs.

“DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CLUBS AT FMS?”

For more information about any of the clubs offered, log on to the Franklin Middle School website—www.franklinms.bcps.org and click on the “Clubs” link.

Don't forget to thank the faculty member who sponsors the club for their support and commitment to our students.

Last year the PTA budgeted over \$4,000 to help fund the after school clubs.

Direct Donations

Did you know that the FMS PTA is a charitable organization and that your direct donations are tax deductible just like any other charitable contribution?

If you would like to support the PTA with a direct donation, a form is enclosed with our summer mailing and also available on the website--

www.franklinmiddlepta.org. Log on, follow the link to fundraisers, and send your donation to the school office c/o the PTA.

“The school is the least expenditure upon which America should be willing to economize.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Fun” Raisers

What is a “Fun” Raiser, you might ask? A Fun Raiser is our way of getting the students involved in helping to raise money for the PTA, but making sure that they have a great time in the process. We had three Fun Raisers last year and we hope to add one or two more this year. Our first Fun Raiser for the year will be an Ice Skate Night in October. Make sure you give us your e-mail address (see the Going Green form in the summer mailing packet) so you will be notified of all our Fun Raisers and other events. And remember, Fun Raisers are discounted for PTA members!

Spirit Wear

Have your student show his/her FMS pride by wearing Franklin Spirit Wear. Spirit Wear clothing is navy blue with "FRANKLIN" in bold white letters. Spirit Wear is getting a new item this year—the FMS car magnet. Our other items include a hooded sweatshirt, sweatpants, athletic shorts (which my son informs me are the most comfortable shorts he owns), cheer shorts, cold weather beanie hats and a water bottle.

During cold weather months in gym class, students are allowed to wear their Spirit Wear sweatshirts and

sweatpants. Students are also allowed to wear their Spirit Wear hats in gym class!

There will be items available for sale at Locker Night and Back to School Night, and if the item has to be ordered, it will take approximately 2-3 weeks to arrive—in plenty of time before the cold weather arrives.

Because we need to order items in bulk to keep the prices low, we only place orders for Spirit Wear 2-3 times per school year. If you don't get your order in by the end of September, then you'll have to wait

until we have enough other orders to place a bulk order, which could be several months.

Spirit Wear must be paid for in full when placing your order, so don't forget to bring your checkbooks or cash to Back to School Night and Locker Night. Beginning this year, PTA members will receive a discount on all Spirit Wear items!

Spirit Wear order forms are included in your summer mailing packet and are also available on the PTA website under the fundraising link.

School Store

Has your child been to the school store? Is your child new to FMS? The School Store is located right next to the cafeteria and is open during all lunch periods (10:30 – 12:30) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The school store is operated and staffed by PTA volunteers. You can volunteer once a week, every other week, once a month, or on an "as needed" basis.

Items found at the school store range from pencils, lead refills and

erasers to science project boards and locker mirrors. You can also find unique items throughout the year, like fuzzy rainbow pens, fruity gel pens and a selection of D.A.R.E. merchandise, such as frisbees, dog tag necklaces, magnets, pens and more.

"What can you find at the FMS School Store?"

The prices are terrific because the PTA purchases items in bulk and passes the savings on to the students. The objective is not to make a profit but to benefit the students. If you would like to volunteer to help at the school store, please complete and return the Volunteer Form found in the summer mailing packet or contact Sheryl Mowrey or Risa Offit (see the FMS PTA directory on the PTA website for their contact information).

Affinity Programs

Besides membership fees, fundraising and donations that are used to fund the FMS PTA programs, FMS PTA also raises money for the school by participating in various affinity programs. These include: Giant A+ Rewards, Target Visa, My Coke Rewards, Box Tops 4 Education, and Campbell's Labels.

When you become a PTA member, we ask for your Giant # from your card and register for you each year. If you have a Target Visa, you can register our school to receive your reward dollars. You

can clip Campbell's labels and General Mills products box tops and send them in an envelope to school marked "PTA Affinity." For My Coke Rewards, you can send the lids or the part of the box with the codes in to school or register for an account at www.mycokerewards.com and enter the codes yourself. Then you simply donate the points to our school.

We help to raise thousands of dollars through our affinity programs and we hope you can help.



August/September Calendar



Franklin Middle School PTA

10 Cockeysmill Road
Reisterstown, MD 21136
www.franklinmiddlepta.org

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Locker Night, Thursday, August 26, 5:00-7:00 p.m. (this is an open house type event, arrive any time between 5:00 and 6:45)

First Day of School, Monday, August 30

School Closed: Monday, September 6, Thursday, September 9 and
Tuesday, September 14

Back to School Night, Wednesday, September 15, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.,
PTA General Meeting

PTA Fall Fundraiser Kickoff Assemblies, Wednesday, September 22

Interim Reports Issued, September 29

Please remember at Locker Night and Back to School Night you will be able to join the PTA and purchase Spirit Wear (as well as buy the required gym uniform, agenda and sketch book at Locker Night). Make sure you bring your checkbook. You will need a separate check for each purchase.

We're on the Web!

www.franklinmiddlepta.org

Spotlight on an FMS Faculty Member

If you were a PTA member last year, then you are familiar with our newsletter and know that this section was used to highlight an FMS PTA volunteer each month.

This year, we thought it would be great to keep the spotlight section, but to instead randomly spotlight an FMS faculty or staff member. However, this first spotlight is not random. We are going to spotlight our new Principal, Mrs. Charlyne Maul.

As I mentioned on page 1, I had the opportunity to sit down with Mrs. Maul and talk to her about what the PTA's role is at FMS and what support we, and the parents in general, need from the school. Mrs. Maul was very receptive to our ideas and goals and we look forward to working with her this year.

Mrs. Maul was born and raised in Dundalk and is a product of the Baltimore County Public School System. She attended Berkshire

Elementary, Holabird Middle and Dundalk High Schools. She currently lives in the Edgemere/Sparrows Point part of the County.

Mrs. Maul and her "wonderful and supportive" husband, Rodi, have two children—Sydni—who is 8, and Cannyn—who is 6. She is obviously a pet lover as they have a 12-year old black lab named Dodge, a pet iguana named Iggy and a pond full of fish. She loves to play softball and attend craft shows and festivals. I think she'll really like the Reisterstown Festival and the Bloomin' Arts Festival (which is held on the Middle School property).

For summer vacation, Mrs. Maul visited CedarPoint Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio, which is known for its many roller coasters. **When I say many, I mean 16, and she rode every one!** She also went to Las

Vegas—that was probably tame after CedarPoint.

Mrs. Maul attended Cabrini College, which is a small college in Radnor, PA. She holds a BS in Mathematics and Education from Cabrini and a Masters in Education Administration from Goucher College. Before becoming Principal at FMS, Mrs. Maul was the Assistant Principal at both Lansdowne Middle and Woodlawn Middle. She has also taught Mathematics at Middle River Middle, Meadowood Alternative Center and Lansdowne Middle. To quote Mrs. Maul, "I Love, Love, Love Middle School!"

Mrs. Maul is most looking forward to "having kids in the building" and to "working with a new staff and getting to know them and their families."

I know the PTA is looking forward to getting to know and work with Mrs. Maul.