



FOX TALES

Farragut Elementary Parent Newsletter



December 2010

Dear Farragut Elementary Parents,

Hey! Looks like we all survived the Thanksgiving holiday. I hope everyone enjoyed their week off. As promised last month, here are some pictures from the Halloween Parade. "Cute" hardly does them justice!



MY CHILD IS STUDENT OF THE MONTH AT FARRAGUT

OCTOBER 2010

Mary Kavucku	Cory Goodwin	Matthew Cowan	Jack O'Brien
Bennett Kim	Kekoa Check	Preston Webb	Andre Windom
Noah Tyau	David Uribe	Sara Castillo	Shaina Levin
Grace Dedeaux	Roshan Chhetri	Salman Abbas	Aaron Onate
Emma Bishop	Kayla Walden	Nicholas Falk	Brianna Kimura
Lesly Arrevillaga	Lydia Simon	Beluso Anuluoha	

THE FARRAGUT FOLLIES!

Don't miss

**FEATURING
FARRAGUT'S OWN
MULTI-TALENTED
AND AWESOMELY
ENTERTAINING
FAAST STUDENTS!**

- Friday, December 10
- 6:30pm to 8pm
- Farragut Cafetorium
- Free Admission
- Attendance open to everyone
- Tamales to buy and take home for dinner.

*The
Velveteen
Rabbit*

*The
Musical*

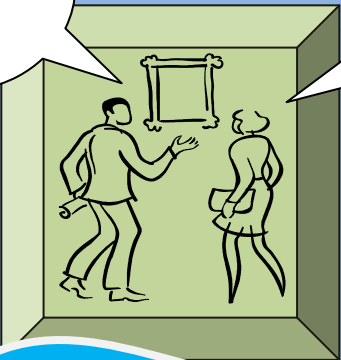
Princess Ballet

Papier
Mache

Art Exhibit

Drum &
Percussion
Performance

Our boy painted this?



He sure did!

Kids' Fine Art Exhibit

PROFESSIONALLY
EMCEE D



LEGO

DISPLAY



With my new
Mad Scientist
Skills....
I will take over
the whole tri-
state area! (see
for yourself)

And so much more!

Fairy Tale Theater, Soccer exhibit, Yoga ...

Must we go on to get your attention?

Come. Support the kids with applause and laughter!

Give the kids a snack before the show and then purchase tamales at the event to take home for a late supper.

Support FAAST – See the Follies!

THE GARDEN UPDATE

Written by James Yankopoulos and his band of Guerilla Gardeners

Michael Pollan advises us to "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants". This is basically a return to an old way of eating – the way our grandmother's ate – from the garden, free of pesticides, locally-grown, and in season. And, it was better tasting, too.

Here at Fox Garden, Farragut's own purist experiment in local organic farming, the garden has been buzzing with activity lately. Using the new PTA-funded Growing Great curriculum, Mrs. Harter's 2nd graders planted a salad garden to learn about vegetable "cousins". Ms. Morgan's 3rd graders and Mrs. Robert's 5th graders planted two beds of winter vegetables including cabbage, spinach, brussels sprouts, and turnips. The 5th graders experimented by surrounded their entire bed with marigolds to test whether the flowers actually can help ward-off pests. And, most recently Ms. Wilkens' 1st graders learned about plant parts, planted lots of carrots and peas, and very significantly, got to pick and eat some fully grown carrots that just happened to be ready! Talk about instant gratification!

To help keep it all alive, our new state-of-the-art irrigation system now includes 6 beds plumbed with drip tubing which will cut our water consumption down by about 70%, and eliminate the overspray which caused weeds in the pathways and encouraged mildew on the plants.

As the garden continues to thrive, we've started to see a few dozen regulars ("garden groupies") who run over every time they see us out there during recess. They tell us about the caterpillars and Monarch butterflies that they just saw, ask about the giant dipper gourd (it's in the art room posing for drawings), they eat lettuce leaves and basil, and dare us to feed them jalapeños, and, if it's hot, they beg us to mist them with water.

So, apparently, this garden is really having a direct impact on our kids. They are discovering the simple pleasures of growing and eating from a garden. They see the hard work of weeding, and smell the compost cooking. Some are even getting to yank out carrots from the earth, rinse them, and then munch them on the spot. Oh, and also, wave them around like daggers... 'cause that's cool too.



The fifth grade completed a unit in Open Court about the rainforest. Below are two poems written by students during this lesson.

Rainforest

By Conor Hopkins

Rainforest
Miracle, steamy
Slithering, crying, saving
All living things depend on one another
Amazing World!

Rainforest

By Michael Wang

Rainforest
Wondrous, vivid
Slithering, howling, squawking
Being cut down, 100 acres per
minute
Precious environment



YOUR FARRAGUT STUDENT COUNCIL

I have always been curious about how the Farragut Student Council is formed and what their formal duties are. I think it is a very cool thing that our elementary kids get exposed to a 'governing' body at such an early age.

So, with this in mind, I went searching for Mrs. Eskridge who, among about a million other things she does at our school, oversees the student council. She was, as one would expect, a wealth of information. However, I did not get a picture. So, hopefully I can secure one to run in a future newsletter.

Near the start of school, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classrooms each select 3 representatives. The students in 3rd-5th grades vote for the president and all officers. The students who were running each gave a speech to all the students and then each class received ballots and voted in their class.

The Student Council focus on running Spirit Days and earning money to purchase balls and jump ropes for the playground. They are also involved in service projects, such as monthly food drives, Christmas gifts for the families at Family Place, and act as Hall Monitors during lunchtime.

They meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8am. Any student is allowed to attend Student Council meetings. Agendas include spirit days, any problems around school and ways they can help.

The 2010-2011 Student Council Officers are President Celine Cuadro, Vice-President Alex Knight, Secretaries Hannah Gomez and Donald Ward, and Treasurer Joanna Kim.



Okay, I couldn't resist putting in a few more Fall Festival pictures! After all, it is our second biggest fundraising event and our first of the school year. Plus, we received so much support from our Farragut community. And, clearly everyone was having so much fun! Even James Sparling, who

spent most of the day soaking wet!



A special thanks to Dave Rabb of [Dave Rabb Children's Fitness Center](#) for setting up the obstacle courses. Dave donated his own time, equipment and ticket sales to the Fall Festival event. **THANKS DAVE!!**



What people are saying when they're cornered...

Steve Levin's Corner, Fan Club President....

It's December already! This means lots of events at school (so check <http://www.farragutfanclub.org> to see what's on the calendar). December means holidays and winter break and time with family and I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season. December also means that our second payment is due to pay for the software your kids use every week in the computer lab. So watch for more flyers and pleas for money. I know we all get bombarded with worthy causes asking for donations, but this is for all our kids... so please help when you can.

Principal Carroll's Corner....

Parent conferences are coming up this month and at the parent conference you will receive your child's report card. Your child's teacher will explain the grading and provide you with suggestions on how you can support learning at home. Our goal is for all students to reach proficient in English Language Arts and Math. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful, caring parent community that values education and encourages their children to put forth their best effort at school.

One significant way parents can help their children is by making time each evening to work on memorization of math facts. Students in third grade and up are expected to know all of their multiplication tables with automaticity. That means the child can effortlessly give the product for each multiplication fact. Selecting just a couple of math facts to work on each day and committing them to memory will result in your child soon knowing all of the facts. When my children were in elementary school, we would recite math facts in the car on the way to school or to the grocery store. If your child doesn't have their math facts mastered, math will become frustrating to them as they are required to do long multiplication and division problems, find common denominators, etc. One way to ensure that your child does well in math is by helping them commit the math facts to memory.

Due to the December parent conferences, students will be dismissed at 1:45 December 6th through December 14th. Wednesday, December 15th will be a regular day with dismissal at 3:15. The day before Winter Break, Friday, December 17 will be a short day with students dismissed at 1:45. Please mark your calendars.

Best wishes for a wonderful Winter Holiday. I hope all of our families have a happy and safe Holiday Season. School resumes Monday, January 3rd.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

*Ms. Eileen Carroll, Principal
Farragut Elementary School*

*Christine Johnson's Corner, Chair,
Fan Club Art Committee....*

Whats New In the Arts....

Next Artworks! meeting will be Thursday, December 16th in the Library from 6:30-8 pm. All are welcome!

Want to know what the kids are making in art class? Check out the display cases around campus, the art room and the library to see some very creative art pieces! Every month a new grade level or two will be featured around campus.

Currently showing...5th grade Dia de los Muertos collages, and **2nd grade** Henri Rousseau nature inspired collages (in the art room only).

Art work will not be coming home until the end of the school year, at which point the students will bring their portfolios home. Work of their choice will be displayed at Artworks! Community Arts Day on March 19.

Parent Corner...

Sadly, there's no parent corner piece this month. Please consider contributing for next month. I think of this as a free-form forum for parents to express their thoughts.

Student Contribution

Nature

Nature, nature it's so fun.
Animals playing in the sun.
The sky, the leaves even the bees.
Nature, nature is everywhere.

Luke Basom, student

TEACHER CORNER...

**Paige Wilkens
1st Grade**

Playing volleyball and bike riding help me stay fit

Artisan-I enjoy making my own jewelry

Is learning how to surf

Goes camping in a 1964 VW bus

Eats no meat (since I was in 1st grade)

Weakness for rocky road ice-cream

Inching my way toward earning a Masters

Loves teaching 1st grade because the students are always excited to learn

Kitten's name is Pickles

Eighth year of teaching elementary school

Never wants to leave Farragut Elementary

San Diego is my favorite place to visit because my family lives there

Dina Wahlert & Ann Bishop

Happy December!

In keeping with the season, we'd like to thank all of you for your generous support of the PTA. Without you, the gift wrap drive, Book Fair, and Fall Festival would not have been the successful events they were. Whether you gave with your time or your money, we appreciate everyone who pitched in. And a special thank you to Casper Brindle and Propixart.com for the wonderful Family Portrait fundraiser. Enjoy the holidays! Enjoy your friends and families! And remember you can still join the PTA for only \$6 per person. What a bargain! Makes a great gift. Envelopes in the front office.

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Co-Presidents 2010-2011



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

December 6 – Monthly morning assembly
December 6-10 Early dismissal (1:45) all week
December 9 – Last Day of FFAST classes
December 10 – Farragut Follies
December 14 – PTA/Fan Club December meeting
December 15 – 3:15 dismissal
December 16 – Artworks! meeting 6:30-8p
December 18 – 1:45 dismissal
December 20-31 Winter Break
January 3 – School resumes
January 7 – Family Movie Night
January 17 – MLK Day (no school)

ALSO OF NOTE:

Remaining Adult Volunteer opportunities at Farragut Elementary 2010-2011 School Year (plan now which ones you'll do)

- *Art Room Volunteer*
- *Family Bingo Night (February)*
- *Fundraising (ongoing with multiple short term opportunities)*
- *Artworks! (April 2011)-*
- *Jogathon*
- *Family Sports Day*
- *Movie Nights*

ART ROOM DONATION UPDATE:

Please continue to donate egg cartons and newspaper. Every day she covers the work tables with newspaper, so this is an ongoing need.

UPCOMING ISSUES OF THIS NEWSLETTER:

For every monthly issue of this newsletter, I need a Parent Contribution, Student Contribution, and Teacher Contribution for our "Corners" page. Please consider volunteering to write a small item for a future issue. Next issue I'm hoping to solve the mystery of "what are 5th grade activities?" Also I want to do a piece on bullying. To make comments, suggestions, or volunteer to contribute in an upcoming issue, please contact Barbara Clark @ barbaracl50@yahoo.com. The more we hear from our school community, the better informed we will all be. Many thanks to all who contributed this month!!!

IF YOU'RE NOT SIGNED UP FOR THIS, YOU SHOULD BE

eSCRIPT.COM

The eScrip program is a fundraising program that allows participating merchants to contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the school or organization of your choice (i.e. Farragut Elementary).

Expenditures can be for food, clothing, travel and entertainment, as well as miscellaneous family purchases. AND, keep in mind that with the eScrip program, extended family and friends who live in and out of town can also participate, supporting your worthwhile programs.

Here's How it Works

- You register any one or all of your existing grocery loyalty, debit and credit cards for use in the program.
- Participating merchants will make contributions to your chosen group, based on purchases made by you, just by using the cards you have registered.
- Your purchases are tracked and available to you online, allowing you to see just how much you are earning on your child's behalf!

ESI introduced the eScrip program in 1999 and has distributed over \$250 million to schools and youth organizations across the country.

PTA & FAN CLUB NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES:

On the subject of classrooms raising independent funds for purchasing larger classroom items for teachers that can be received and used immediately, Steve Levin commented that this effort is building a legacy school infrastructure and setting a new tradition in outfitting the classrooms. One member reminded parents that it is important to ask teachers what they want in their classrooms. To-date, 6 document readers have been purchased this year through independent parent donations. Kudos to those parents who donated and to the head room parents for coordinating these efforts!

After a lively discussion, members was voted to pay the Successmaker annual maintenance fee for the coming year. This provides technical support and includes any software upgrades that become available. Parents are anxious to see results after students have worked with the software a full year.

Bridget VanSlyke reported on the overwhelming success of the Reflections workshops.

An update was given on the Bicycle Safety Course which will be held at the school a weekend just after the students return from Winter Break.

Although there was no Teacher Report at this meeting, we would love to have teachers attend PTA/Fan Club meetings and report their views. PTA & Fan Club are a parent/teacher support groups and having active teacher participation in meetings will help keep our efforts targeted and meaningful.

Steve Levin reminded the group that the 2nd and final installment on the Successmaker purchase is due in December and any donations above the annual per student donations are welcomed. The final payment is approximately \$22,000.

December 14 is the next PTA/Fan Club meeting in the school library starting at 6:30pm. Pizza, snacks & childcare provided.

The PTA's Family Portrait Fundraiser raised \$1100.00 for the school.

Many thanks to Casper Brindle for generously donating his time for this event.

A reminder that, if you haven't already, pick up your disk (if you ordered one in your picture package) in the school office.

The first-ever Farragut Elementary Rummage Sale made \$1200.00.

Not bad for a short day's work. Proceeds will be used to fund Farragut 5th grade activities.

Thanks to all the hours Brian Kasch and his crew put into planning and to all the families who donated items and came out to help on the day of the sale.

 **GoodSearch** YOU SEARCH, WE GIVE

Good Search is an internet search engine that allows you to designate a cause for donation. Go to goodsearch.com when you need to search the web, designate Farragut Fan Club, and every time you search or shop the internet using their search engine, they make a donation. It costs you nothing and the school benefits.

A Little Parent Humor

Miss Jones had been giving her second-grade students a lesson on science. She had explained about magnets and showed how they would pick up nails and other bits of iron.

Now it was question time, and she asked, "My name begins with the letter 'M' and I pick up things. What am I?" A little boy in the front row proudly said, "You're a mother!"

BEING AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN FAN CLUB AND A MEMBER OF YOUR PTA IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.



Family Fiesta Bingo is coming up!



This fun family night event is wacky, yummy and just provides an all around great night for Farragut families, friends of Farragut Families, and the Farragut staff.

More information will be forthcoming in your kids' backpacks and in next month's issue. As in previous years, volunteers will be needed to set up, serve food, bake for the bake sale, sell tickets prior to and on the night of the event, and clean-up.

I'm sure we can talk Stacy Horn-Bostel into calling the bingo numbers for yet another year.

Donations of water, soda & juice boxes will be needed. And, as you're cleaning out your attics and closets, don't forget to save your good-condition toys and kitchen items for use as raffle prizes. We'll also be looking for donations of new items to be used in creating baskets for the basket raffle.

So, mark Friday, February 4th on your calendar. This is one affair you don't want to miss!



To volunteer contact Brian Kasch at vlad222@aol.com



The Artworks! Committee is collecting recipes for all varieties of food including soups, salads, main dishes, deserts, ethnic dishes, vegan, vegetarian, gluten free items, and appetizers, jams, special sauces, dinners that really take less than 1/2 hour to prepare and serve etc... They can be recipes from a family favorite, a yummy dish from your favorite magazine, from a friend, or an "experiment" you have perfected!

We will be collecting recipes now through December. These recipes will be organized and made into a sturdy art inspired looking cookbook that your family can enjoy for years to come. Proceeds will benefit arts programming at Farragut. These cookbooks will be available for pre-order and for sale at Artworks! events this coming Spring!

Please **email or scan recipes** to Bronwen Hunter at bronwengrace@gmail.com or drop off your recipe in the front office in the box marked "Recipes".

For each recipe submitted: please include your name, as it will appear in the cookbook along with a quick sentence or two about why you love the recipe (what it is useful for, or that it has been passed down 4 generations in your family, etc.). You can also include a small photo (3X5 or smaller) of your family enjoying your creation (may be included in the cookbook)!

Questions... email popsiclepants@sbcglobal.net.

Send us as many as you like!

This and future issues of *Fox Tales* are available on the Farragut Fan Club Website
Farragutfanclub.org

There will be a few color copies available each month in the office.
Viewed Online, *Fox Tales* includes links to email and sites referenced in the issue.

To submit comments, information or articles for upcoming issues of "Fox Tales", please email Barbara Clark at barbaracl50@yahoo.com

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