

DEER TRACKS

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Message from the PTA President

On the national PTA organization's list of [Top 10 Things Teachers Wish Parents Would Do](#), "be involved" ranks number one. That's what PTA is all about. Parents need to remain involved throughout their child's academic career. (Visit their website at www.pta.org)

Your DCES PTA wants to help! In conjunction with the school's STEM team (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) we will be hosting *Flumpa and Friends* on November 3, at 5:30 PM. This program will bring Science to life, with music, fitness and fun! After the program, our STEM team will lead everyone in break-out sessions geared toward the subjects mentioned above. There will be science experiments, computer lab activities, Lego and K'nex building, and much more! We invite everyone to attend this fantastic event- but we do need to know that you are coming, so please RSVP by October 22 via email to syost.dcespta@yahoo.com – include the total number of participants (children/adult). Also, we are still in need of some more volunteers to assist our teaching staff with their activities so if you are able to help at one of our stations please let us know in your email.

Market Day-Internet Deadline Friday

It's not too late to place your Market Day orders for this month. The deadline for Internet orders is October 16th. Visit www.marketday.com to place your order today. Don't forget to check out this month's promotions and enter the correct promo code during the check-out process. Call Amy McChesney at 301-865-5079 with any questions. WAY TO GO! Your Market Day purchases helped the PTA earn a profit check of \$204.96 for September. Let's try to earn even more this month! Market Day pick-up is Thursday, October 22 from 5-6PM in the cafeteria.

Halloween Party Reminders and Important Note

The party and parade will be held on Thursday, October 29th. There are a few things to keep in mind. Costumes should not be worn to school. The children will dress up in their costumes prior to the parade. The children should put costumes on over their clothes. We do not have the facilities to have the children change their clothes. Also, be sure your children can put on their costumes themselves. Make-up and spray cans are not allowed at school. As always, please remember to keep toy weapons and such accessories at home. The costumes at school should be kept simple and allow the children to play activities and games, as well as eat. Remember to make it as easy as possible for the children!

Please note that the parade has been shifted due to the 5th-grade lunch schedule. The *parade will be from 1:45 - 2:15 p.m.* The *parties will go from 2:15 to 3:10 p.m.* Please let your party helpers know.

DCES Family Fun Night

The Family Fun Night Committee is looking for volunteers to help plan events for our students and their families to enjoy together. We already have a movie night planned for November 20th, a Bingo Night planned for April 9th, and an Ice Cream Social/Sock Hop planned for May 7th. If you are interested in helping to coordinate all of these events or just one event, please e-mail Cheryl Wilkie at CLCWilkie@aol.com.

Playground Club—Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help on our playgrounds during recess. Recess times vary by grade, and occur between the hours of 11:50AM and 1:45PM. All time slots are available and a wide variety of time commitments available. We will work with your availability. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Rebecca Dean dcespta.rebecca.@gmail.com.

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank everyone who offered to cook, bake or donate items for the teachers' meals during conferences. These themed dinners and lunches are always a hit with the staff. This year we had an "Italian" dinner on Tuesday, a "my favorite casseroles" meal on Wednesday and "soup, salad, and sandwiches" for lunch on Thursday. It is a nice way to thank the staff for all of their hard work. Thank you again to our parent volunteers for your help with these meals.

Thanks from the PTA

The PTA would like to recognize Monica Burroughs for organizing the classroom Parent Volunteer schedule. This is a very important and challenging job. Monica worked hard in coordinating parents' availability with classroom teachers' needs and schedules. We're lucky to have so many wonderful DCES parents willing to spend time helping our students and teachers! Thanks again Monica!

DCES Golden Table

The Golden Table is a special table set up in the cafeteria once a month to honor students who show good character. The table is decorated and reserved during lunch periods for the selected students. Our first Golden Table will be on October 21. Students are now being chosen by their classroom teachers (2 students each month) based on the **Six Pillars of Character Counts**. This month, teachers will be picking students who have exemplified Trustworthiness.

Trustworthiness – Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country.

This year, in addition to sitting at the Golden Table in the lunch room, each student chosen will have his or her picture in the Gazette!

Our Gotcha stickers are still being utilized to recognize students, but they are no longer tied in with the Golden Table. If you have any questions contact Ann Bedard at annahodges@hotmail.com or 301-865-1114.

Holiday Adoption Time!

Holiday time will soon be approaching! With the changes in the economy this year many families are feeling a financial stress. During the year various organizations & communities contact our school to inquire about assisting families during the holidays by providing food and gifts. The generosity of these groups can ease some of the financial burdens of raising a family.

If you are a family that could benefit from receiving some holiday assistance this year please contact Ms McFadden, DCES School Counselor, at **240-236-5943** or at judith.mcfadden@fcps.org. If you know a family in our community that could use some help during the holidays please pass this information on to them.

All information is kept confidential.

Families are identified by numbers not by names.

Also if your family or organization would like to help with our Holiday Adoption by providing food and/or gifts please give Ms McFadden a call.

Upcoming Restaurant Nights –Domino's Night Tonight

Domino's- Thursday, October 15: Present coupon to driver (coupons will be sent home prior)

Applebee's-Monday, October 19: All day long, present coupon to server (will be sent home prior)

Chuck E. Cheese-Thursday, October 29: Beginning at 3 PM., must mention it's for Deer Crossing.

Five Guys-Thursday, November 12: -4-9 PM

Glory Days Grill-Ongoing: Anytime you eat at Glory Days Grill between now and May, send your receipt to your child's homeroom teacher. Total receipts are tallied and submitted to Glory Days and they will donate 10% of the total to our school.

Membership News

We are 445 members strong and counting! Thank you all for your outstanding participation in our membership drive. If you have not yet joined, you can! Membership cards will be issued before the month ends....stay tuned.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding membership - please contact Rachel Sorenson at 301 865-0279 or at RSED100@aol.com

What Do You Really Think?

FCPS Surveys Parents

Parents: What do you think about our parent-teacher conferences schedule? The FCPS Family-School Partnership Committee has launched a survey to gather your feedback about the conferences, held in the fall and early spring of each school year.

FCPS will compile responses to the quick 10-question survey with information supplied by the local PTA County Council and FCPS teachers. The committee will present findings to the Board of Education later this fall.

Parents are our most important partners in education. It's important for FCPS to hear what you think of the current schedule and also learn more about other ways parents typically communicate with their children's teacher(s).

Thank you to all who go to this link and tell FCPS what you think: <http://tinyurl.com/PTConferences>. The survey closes October 16. Parents wishing to complete the survey via paper/pencil may email Paula.Oden@fcps.org or call her at 301-696-6912. She will mail the survey to them and provide a stamped return envelope.

Original Works Fundraiser at DCES

This year our school has teamed up with Original Works – the #1 art based program in the country – to offer a very special program. This program allows you to have your child's very own artwork reproduced onto a selection of over 20 quality products. These products range from magnets, mugs and mouse pads to t-shirts, tote bags and tiles. The wide selection of professionally produced, full color products offers something for everyone. Your child will be creating their artwork in school, using the regular art curriculum as the basis for their work of art. You will then have the opportunity to order whatever products you wish with your child's own artwork featured on each and every product. We are thrilled to be participating in this unique and innovative program. Look for complete program, product and pricing information coming soon. Additional product and program information, as well as customer testimonials, can be found at www.originalworks.com.

Show off your creativity!

Enter the "Take 15 for Physical Activity" poster contest. Open to all 3rd-5th grade Maryland public school students. Design a 16"x20" poster showing the "importance of daily physical activity." Poster must be postmarked by November 13th. Prizes include a Wii console (1 per grade) and forty \$50 gift cards to Prime Outlets. See more info online at www.marylandpublicschools.org by clicking on the "Take 15 for Physical Activity" link under "Programs." More information will also be posted in the front entry area of the school. Contact Rebecca Dean at dcespta.rebecca@gmail.com for questions.

Reflections Program—New Information and Due Date Announced

The Reflections Program is designed to enhance our quality arts education and it gives students the opportunity to express themselves as well as receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts. Students in Pre-school through grade 5 are encouraged to create and submit works of art in six areas: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (including art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage).

DCES PTA is encouraging all students from Pre-K to 5th Grade to start thinking about the theme for this year “Beauty is...” All entries are due Friday, November 6, between 8:30 and 9:30 AM outside the DCES front office.

General Mills Box Tops and Campbell’s Soup Label UPCs

We are off to a great start this year with General Mills box tops and soup label UPCs! In September we collected over 8,500 box tops and soup label UPCs. Thank you so much Deer Crossing families!

As you collect box tops and soup label UPCs, please send them in to school with your child. Classrooms that collect a total of 1,800 box tops and soup label UPCs will be eligible for an ice cream party at the end of the year.

When you clip box tops, please be sure that the expiration date is still visible on the box top-- we are not allowed to send in box tops that are missing the expiration date. When you clip soup labels, we actually do not need the entire label, but we do need the entire UPC code.

See the list below for the classroom standings. The total given is a combination of box tops and soup labels. Our overall school leaders:

3rd place: Ms. Fitzgerald-827
2nd place: Mrs. Grenier- 834
1st place: Ms. Kefauver- 952 (awesome!)

Thank you again for your collection efforts- they do add up! Let’s see if we can beat our collection total from last year!

Box Top Collection Results 2009-10

Cumulative Totals

Pre-K

Garabedian-202

Kindergarten

Tran—237
Fitzgerald-827
Kefauver-952
Janc-220
Schray-53
Sipe-25

1st Grade

Fachler-572
Fazio-276
Bernhard-66
Rhoten-287
Schanuel-154
Mapes-

2nd Grade

Peterman-426
Newton-190
Stitcher-248
Rhoads-654
Woolard-429

3rd Grade

Richardson-

Tu-
Meadows-**290**
Shafii-**180**
Rubin-**74**

4th grade

Lilley-**148**
Lyons-**313**
Grenier-**834**
Bolsteins-
Cowles-**31**

5th grade

Schaffer-**230**
Bilotta-**374**
Freeman-**34**
O'Keeffe-**211**
O'hEithir-**195**