



THE FALCON'S NEST

PHELPS LUCK PTA NEWSLETTER



**Phelps Luck
Elementary**

5370 Oldstone Court
Columbia, MD
(410) 313-6886/7439

February 2009

President's Message

I hope every P.L.E.S. family had a wonderful and restful Winter Break! We are gearing up for our busiest half of the school year, with many fun events (and a few fund-raisers.)

Next up is the kick-off of our Science Fair season, which runs from February until the Science Fair on April 1st. This truly is an extensive program, with many opportunities for students to develop their science skills. We are also planning to hold a Valentine's Dine-Out night sometime in February. The popular International Festival will also take place in February, with a day program on Thursday, February 19 and an evening program at Howard High School on Friday, February 20.

The PTA encourages all parents and guardians to sign up for and attend Parent-Teacher conferences with your child's math teacher. If you can't attend, please contact your child's math teacher to learn how to best support your student in his or her math studies.

A big "Thanks" to Debbi Reid for coordinating our Gianni's Pizza and Desserts fundraiser this month.

The PTA has not forgotten its Membership Challenge to families vs. staff, so keep an eye out for a renewed membership drive and the conclusion of the challenge.

Maryann Cohea, PTA President
410-740-2839 macohea@comcast.net

PTA Board of Directors Meeting

The PTA Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center. All parents, guardians and staff are encouraged to attend.

Scholastic Book Fair

Our second Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for Feb.25 from 1p.m. to 8 p.m. and Feb. 26 from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help as cashiers during these hours. People who are willing to help can call Cristen Jones at 443-756-2459.

Display-My-Art Fundraiser at PLES

Your children have completed their works of art for the Display-My-Art fundraiser. In a few weeks order packets will be coming home with your children. The PTA had great success with this fundraiser last year and hope that you are excited to see what your children have done this year. If you have a younger (or older) child that would also like to participate, have them create their art on an 8x8 inch piece of paper and send it in to school to the attention of: Malinda Haggerty - PTA Display-My-Art fundraiser. To make sure that your art is received, please send a follow-up e-mail to malhag@gmail.com.

This year you will be able to order the products on line. You will have the opportunity to log on and see your child's art on the item you would like to order. You will also be able to pay by credit card.

So start making your lists, remember Mother's and Father's Days are coming soon and don't forget Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles.

We would like to thank Mrs. Langevin and Mrs. Riley, our amazing art teachers, who inspire our children to make incredible pieces of art. This fundraiser would not be half as successful without their creative skills.

If you have any questions please call or e-mail Malinda Haggerty 443-364-5967 malhag@gmail.com

Upcoming Dine-Out Events

Check your children's Wednesday folders for details about upcoming dine-out events in the following weeks and months. In February we will be having a very special "couples only" Valentine's dine-out night at Cafe de Paris (with free babysitting provided by the PTA at P.L.E.S.) Look for information about our second dine-out event at Eggspectation in the Spring. Come out and enjoy a meal and meet up with your friends from P.L.E.S. at one of our fabulous local restaurants--what a fun (and delicious) way to support our school!

Barnes and Noble Totals

The totals are in for the Barnes and Noble book fair and gift wrapping fundraiser. The fun afternoon brought in a grand total of over \$650!

PLES Daily Ritual / Affirmation

I stand tall! I stand tall! I take pride in my work, pride in my school, pride in my family, pride in myself! I will achieve! I will achieve!
I stand tall! I stand tall!

Science Fair

The Science Fair season schedule is as follows:

- Feb. 2** In-school kick-off assembly with Groovy Marc Clayton
- Feb. 9 – 19** In-class science demonstrations. Please send in 1 rinsed, intact, aluminum can.
- March 2** **(date change)** 6:30-8 p.m. ESOL Science Workshop, by ticket only
- March 3** **(date change)** 6:30-8 p.m. K-5 Science Workshop, by ticket only
- March 2 – 6** Videos in Media about the Scientific Process
- March 9** Mini recess science demonstration, by sign-up only
- March 10 – 13** Ask-A-Scientist during recess, by sign-up only
- March 30** Science Fair projects due at P.L.E.S.
- March 31** 3rd -5th grade judging
- April 1** Science Fair: 6-7 p.m. project exhibition, 7-8 p.m. Eric Energy Presentation

Please let me know if you'd like more information on creating a successful science fair project. If you have any questions or would like to help in anyway, do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to watching your child enjoy this unique opportunity for scientific discovery!

Sincerely,
Lisa Strutz, P.L.E.S. PTA Science Committee Chair,
410-730-5627

International Festival

Our P.L.E.S. PTA International Festival will be held on Friday, February 20, 2009, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Howard High School. A "snow date" of Thursday, February 26, 2009, has also been reserved (same time and location). We are also planning to present a daytime International Day program on Thursday, February 19 for all grades.

If you are able to help, please contact Krista Wheatley-Heckman for the daytime program (Krista_Wheatley-Heckman@hcpss.org), Bea Mahious for food (bmahious@gmail.com) or International Festival Chair, Polly Weber (ctpw@juno.com).

We need your help

The P.L.E.S. PTA is actively planning some fun activities for the second half of the school year. Whether you can do a little or a lot - you can make a difference! Also, the teachers and staff are always looking for additional help at school. If you haven't had a chance yet, but would like to volunteer, you can download and print a volunteer form directly from the P.L.E.S. web site. Visit <http://ples.hcpss.org/>. There are 2 volunteer links, one for the PTA Volunteer Form and one for the School wide/Classroom Volunteer Form. Once you have filled out the form(s), please return to your child's teacher. Thank you for all you do to make our school great! If you have any questions, please contact Liz Beachum, PTA Volunteer Coordinator, elizmd@gmail.com or 410-465-8189.

Mark your calendars now

Important February Dates

Report cards issued	Feb. 4
Presidents' Day, schools closed	Feb. 16
Parent/teacher conferences, school closes 3 hours early	Feb. 25 & 26
Parent/teacher conferences, school closed	Feb. 27

Important March Dates

Interim progress reports	March 6
MSA testing, grades 3, 4, 5 reading	March 17 -18
MSA testing, grades 3, 4, 5 math	March 24-25

PTA Executive Board Members

President	Maryann Cohea
1 st Vice President	Karen Stark
2 nd Vice Presidents	Tanya Brogan
	Melinda Haggerty
Secretary	Liz Beachum
Treasurer	Paul Pechacek

Student Directory

The Phelps Luck Elementary School PTA wishes to thank the many community businesses that generously supported last year's Student Directory through their advertising and hope they come back this year! Please patronize these businesses and tell them that you saw their advertisement in the Student Directory or PTA Newsletter.

Café de Paris	8808 Centre Park Drive	410-997-3904
Columbia Art Center	Long Reach Village Center	410-730-0075
Grandfather's Garden Center	5320 Phelps Luck Drive	410-730-3131
Klebanow, Marinelli MD's & Associates, P.A.	8821 Columbia 100 pkwy	410-997-1700
My Gym Columbia	8890 Centre Park Drive	410-730-3308
Parcel Plus	Long Reach Village Center	410-964-2733
Pastino's Upper Crust	8835 Centre Park Drive	410-740-9009