

Folger McKinsey PTO Newsletter

www.folgermckinsey.org

November 2009

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

[Mother Teresa](#)

A Note from the PTO President

This time of year always reminds me of giving. There is so much need out there in our locality, and we are truly blessed with the riches of this educational environment and so many families who care deeply about the community it serves. The Harvest for the Hungry campaign is off to a great start and continues through November 6th! We have several pounds of food to donate to the needy to help make their lives a little easier for this season. What amazing role models you are to your superstars! They see that giving is important to you and follow in kindness. Thank you for all that you are able to give. It means so much to those in need. As always, donating to any campaign is completely optional. You opt in or out. You choose to give what is comfortable for you with no obligation at all.

A Look Back...

October's Story Night with Technology was fun for the children and packed a lot of information for parents in a short timeframe. Parents heard all about the technology of the FASTT Math software and Elements of Reading Vocabulary kits that all their generous Direct Donations were able to fund. The computers throughout the entire school are being loaded with the FASTT Math and will be accessible to students in either the computer lab, media center, classrooms or just about anywhere there is a computer. Those daily 10 minute sessions will keep our children up to speed on math facts in a fun and challenging way by reinforcing what they do know and offering new challenges. I hope you were able to see the demonstration in action. It was fabulous! The Elements of Reading has been ordered and will be implemented as soon as the kits arrive. Fourth grade has already been sharing one kit between them, as Mrs. Bachmann was able to secure one "trial" kit from her old school. Those who have been working with it have offered feedback that it really stretches student's ability and reasoning with new more challenging words to use everyday. The children have loved this new program and see it as a fun way to learn vocabulary without the monotony of tired instruction. Students see new words in picture contexts and make up their own definitions (which are usually right on!) which only engages them more through ownership of that definition, sentence or illustration. I am thrilled and very appreciative that through all of our donations, we were able to fund these programs. Our children will be better for it and that's what is really important. Thank you so much.

Moving Forward...

Continued funding is provided by some of our local business partners. Do you work for a company that offers a donation company match program? Some companies run a generous "Charitable Donation Matching Gift Program" especially when making donations to schools. I urge you to check with your employer so that your donation to the Folger McKinsey PTO will be matched dollar for dollar by them. Contact Wendi Greim for more information at wendigreim@comcast.net. Now that some of the immediate goals for technology were met we can focus on the Special Education software that is still pending. Donations will be gratefully accepted all year but your tax benefit for the 2009 year ends 12/31/09. If you are considering donating, make it a tax deduction for this year! I can't think of a better investment than our children.

I look forward to an amazing November, and hope to see you at the next PTO meeting on November 10th!

Sincerely,
Karen Reynolds

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Folger McKinsey Elementary for any product or service.

CAC News: Where Are The Kids Going and Other Important Info

The buzz is loud and strong: "Where will our kids be going to school next year?" First things first, WE NEED TO WORK TO ENSURE THAT FOLGER SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IS FUNDED. That's right, in these economic times, nothing is definite. While our project is currently in the design phase and some dollars have been allocated for construction, we will not know if Folger's construction will actually begin in June 2010 until the budget process is completed in May! We need to begin preparations for relocation but we must remain vigilant in pursuit of the funding. Please participate in this process. Details will be coming about how you can help; from sending a letter or email to the County Executive to simply attending a meeting to show our school support. Every little bit makes a big difference!

Back to the question top of everyone's mind: "Where will our kids be going to school next year?" A definitive answer will not be made by the Board of Education until January. In the meantime, a subcommittee was formed at our CAC meeting on October 20 to evaluate this issue on behalf of our school. Five parent volunteers will work during the next two months to probe this matter. The plan is to relocate Folger, all the students and all the staff, so that it operates just as it does today, simply at another location. There will be minimal interaction with the other school on a daily basis. Folger will have a different start and end time, keeping busses distinct from the host school. Folger will have its own main office. Lunch for our students will be separate from the students at the other school. Folger's address will change for a while but the successful, productive and safe educational experience we know and expect will remain constant.

At this time, there appears to be two viable facilities that could house our school while Folger is under construction: Chesapeake Bay Middle School in Pasadena and Annapolis Middle School. The subcommittee will evaluate both locations, as well as other possible locations. This will entail site visits, and soliciting feedback from parents and staff. Please submit your comments via email to cac@folgermckinsey.org. The subcommittee is tasked with making a recommendation to the Folger administration and CAC by December 11. Members of the subcommittee are Amanda Bredeck (North Cape Arthur), Chris Myers (Fair Oaks), Thurman Reynolds (Stewart's Landing), Carolyn Russell (Berrywood) and Angie Seligman (North Cape Athur). This committee is comprised of representatives from various communities, including walkers and bus riders, with children in different grades, in an effort to obtain a diverse school perspective. Thank you for your support of this process and please, share your questions and suggestions with the above sub-committee members.

In other CAC news, there was a great deal of discussion of other school related matters such as lunch and recess, with regard to the time allotted for both. This is a hot topic throughout the Severna Park area. It was raised to the Board of Education at their September 15th meeting by a concerned parent from another SP elementary school. The SP cluster is looking to see what changes can be made regarding increased time for lunch and recess. Also at the meeting, Mrs. Bachmann presented many of the curriculum initiatives being implemented at Folger. New vocabulary, math, and reading group programs are at Folger (or will be very soon), all with the goal of providing increased differentiated instruction to our vast student body. The Back to School Night format, as well as the upcoming parent/teacher conferences, was also discussed. The daily arrival process was addressed as well, with car riders being reminded of the importance of proceeding to the designated drop-off area beyond the front entrance for morning arrival. There are too many pedestrians, busses and cars, making adherence to this process a critical safety matter. Visit the CAC page on the website for all the details in the meeting minutes and general CAC news.

Thank you to Michael Rubenstein for volunteering to attend the Severna Park Cluster CAC meetings this fall. This is where all the SP schools are represented and matters related to all of our students are shared. We are in need of a volunteer to represent Folger at the 3 Spring Cluster evening meetings. Please contact the CAC to express your interest or obtain more information. Thank you for considering this important role.

CAC meetings are the perfect opportunity to participate in discussion about the happenings at our school. Please join us! The next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7pm in the Media Center.

Community Service Corner

Thank you to the many families that attended Story Night and donated can goods as admission! We collected two large boxes of food, and kicked off our food drive for **Harvest for the Hungry, Oct. 19th-Nov. 6th**. All food and supplies donated will go to the Anne Arundel Food Bank for distribution in Anne Arundel County--helping families close to home. During the three week food drive, the grade with the most amount of food items collected will win an ice-cream treat! Mrs. Bachmann has offered another incentive for the entire school--if we collect a total of more than 1,229 lbs of food (amount collected last year) then Mrs. Bachmann will serve students at lunch in the cafeteria one day following the food drive.



By working together as a community to wipe out hunger one can at a time, we all win.

This November, families will be receiving information about our December community service projects: **Hilltop Sharing**: helping needy families from our sister school Hilltop Elementary by shopping for the holidays; **Sharing Foundation**: collecting new toys for needy kids who do not necessarily qualify for any other assistance at the holidays; **Mitten Tree**: Collecting mittens/gloves, hats, and scarves for needy children in our area. ***Participation in any or all of these projects is completely optional--but always greatly appreciated.* These are wonderful opportunities to share with others in need during the holidays, and to involve children in community service.

This November's guidance monthly theme is **cooperation**. By cooperating with others and giving just a little of ourselves--we can make a huge difference!

Thanks for Giving!
Julie Snyder
Community Service Coordinator

CAPRI SUN BRIGADE FOR FOLGER

In addition to all the "Green" ventures Folger has underway, a new component is being added beginning November 1. Brownie Troop #1788 and Daisy Troop #2000 are introducing a Capri Sun Brigade Recycling Program for our school. These Girl Scouts will be working hard to collect, count and send in students' empty drink pouches from school each week. Every empty Capri Sun and Honest Kids drink pouch recycled will earn \$.02 that will be reimbursed to Folger Elementary by Terracycle. Look for our Capri Sun Recycling container in the lunch room, in addition to snack collection containers for each Kindergarten class.

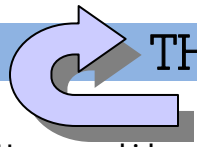
Contact: jenfortier222@yahoo.com

"Respect the pouch", respect our earth, and earn money for Folger! 🍷



Weekly Folger Updates

Weekly Folger Updates will be emailed over the weekend. If you would like your announcement included, please email Karen Reynolds at teamreyn@verizon.net by Thursday of each week. If you are not receiving Folger Updates by e-mail, please send an e-mail to Kathie Hamlett at sons4me2@yahoo.com to be added, or you can join the group by going to FolgerMcKinseyE-mail-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



THIS not That

Do you know what *THIS* is? Have your kids told you about THIS, and that? Have you visited the school lately and gotten the scoop? The bulletin board in the lobby explains it all. "THIS" is a great way to pack a "green" lunch and "THIS" is what we hope you will strive to do on behalf of our green school and of course, the environment.

In our effort to reduce trash in the school cafeteria, we have been focusing on increasing recycling. Recycling is just one of the "green Rs". Reduce is another and that is what "THIS" is all about! Consider the items used to pack your child's lunch. Instead of plastic baggies, reach for reusable containers. Rather than paper bags, use a lunch box or bag. "Green" products are very much in style, so there are many choices available. Lunch boxes have come a long way since the days we parents were in elementary school! Thermoses and reusable drink bottles are great alternatives to plastic water bottles. And if you really want to go the extra step, place a cloth napkin in your child's lunch rather than a paper napkin, which cannot be recycled. Every little bit makes a tremendous difference. Think about it for a moment: Every day at Folger, approximately 600 students eat lunch. Think about the amount of trash that is generated from your child's lunch and multiply that by the 600 kids at Folger. That's a tremendous amount of trash at our school, which is just one of the six elementary schools in our town. Each lunch box makes a difference. Help your child pack a "THIS" lunch!



Reduce * Reuse * Recycle
Keep Folger Green



Did You Know?

The following list is of local businesses that have offered proceeds to Folger McKinsey as a percentage of sales on an event or as an ongoing program. I thought that if they were detailed, you would be sure to think of them when making buying decision.


- Giant:** Sign up your Bonus card on-line each year for proceeds towards Folger at www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/index.htm
- Safeway:** Sign up your card each year on at www.safeway.com:80/IFL/Grocery/Card-Programs for funding towards Folger.
- Food Lion:** They have a school program so sign up your Food Lion card www.foodlion.com/Community-Connections/Lion-Shop-And-Share
- Ledo's Pizza:** Located in Park Plaza offers a monthly program of 20% of sales back to Folger McKinsey when you mention that you are a Folger Family! (Check calendar for specific day)
- Chick-fil-A:** Selected dates offer 20% of sales to FMES- mention that you are a Folger Family!
- Universal Heating and Plumbing:** Offering 5% of installation price back to Folger Families. See directory for contact information. A Folger family just had their system upgraded which resulted in a check for nearly \$500 for FMES! WOW!
- Franklin Toys:** Jeff is back in the business and offering up 10% discount to Folger Families and 10% back to FMES **November 20-30.**
- Jack-in-the-Box Toys:** They will have their own week of fun and funding. **November 2-8** JITB will donate 10% of the week's sales to Folger and offering a 10% discount as well.
- Loveable Labels:** A portion of what is sold through the link listed in the directory will rebate back to FMES.
- Target:** If you have a Target credit card, you can designate Folger to earn money for our school.
- Office Depot:** Just mention Folger McKinsey when you check out.
- The Music and Arts Center:** In Severna Park has also started a loyalty program where money will go to our school. It only takes a few minutes to get a loyalty card and you can then designate the school of your choice

Don't forget to help out Folger McKinsey Elementary school during this busy time of year.
Thanks for your support and time.
Happy Shopping!

Folger Ledo Pizza Night

As you are rushing around during this busy fall month, take a break from dinner just once. Visit Ledo Pizza on Wednesday November 4th between 5 and 9, mention Folger McKinsey and a portion of the proceeds from your meal will be donated to the PTO. Ledo Pizza and Folger are partnering for the 2009-2010 school year. Please stop by Ledo on the first Wednesday of the month!

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Folger Discount Jack in the Box Toys (2 nd - 8 th) Harvest For The Hungry	3 -----	4  Ledo's Pizza Night	5 Cult. Arts Assembly- "Native is American" -----	6 ----->	7
8	9	10 PTO Meeting 9-11 am	11	12	13	14
15 American Education Week-----	16 ----- Newsletter Deadline	17 Report cards ----- CAC MEETING MEDIA CENTER 7PM	18 -----	19 -----	20 Folger Discount Franklin Toys (20 th -30 th) -----	21
22	23 No School Teacher conf. 8:00 Community Sponsored Breakfast	24 No School Teacher conf.	25 No School Thanksgiving Break	26 No School ----- 	27 No School ----->	28
29	30					