

Fairless PTO Newsletter

Winter 2009

www.whsd.k12.pa.us/schools/FAIRLESS

Dr. Debbie Vereen, Principal
Heather Lum, PTO Coordinator



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Fairless Store, Tuesdays, 8:20 am (volunteers needed)
- ◆ PSSA Saturday School, Feb. 7, 21, and 28
- ◆ Bring Your Parent to School Day, Thursday, Feb. 12
- ◆ Beginning Music Demonstration, Thursday, Feb. 12
- ◆ PTO meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 6 pm
- ◆ PSSA Saturday School, March 7 and 14
- ◆ PSSA Family Celebration, Saturday, March 14, 10 am -12 pm
- ◆ Donuts for Dads, Tuesday, April 14, 10 am

Can You Donate a Few Hours?

Thank you to the many parents who donated baked goods for the PTO bake sale in October 2008. The PTO raised over \$120 for student activities. Mrs. Welsh, Fairless librarian, thanks the parents who volunteer at the Scholastic Book Fair in December.

It's not too early to make a commitment to participate in PTO and school events planned for this winter and spring. Some highlights:

- **Fairless Store:** every Tuesday morning from 8:20 to 9 am. The Fairless store needs one or two more people to volunteer one (1) Tuesday per month. (Req. clearances)
- **Fairless Water Fundraiser** (see article below). Can you help administer help for this program? Two or three parents needed; most work can be done from home.

If you can help, please contact Heather Lum at 412-823-0151 or email her at hlum@pobox.com.

"I don't have time to attend PTO meetings."

You don't have to attend PTO meetings to get involved. Call parent Heather Lum at 412-823-0151 or email her at hlum@pobox.com. Let her know what your availability is and what you would like to help out with.

"I would volunteer, but clearances are expensive."

The WHSD will pay the cost of getting the state child abuse and FBI clearances now required for parent volunteers.

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Bottled Water to Fund Rewards Program

Fairless has set a goal that all students achieve a year's growth in reading and math this year. Teachers, staff, and students are working hard toward this goal every day.

Student rewards program. Fairless will pilot a new program to reward students who achieve with cash rewards. According to Fairless Principal Dr. Vereen, "A very popular trend in schools across the country is

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PSSA Prep: Saturday School and Family Celebration

The Fairless PSSA Saturday School is available to any Fairless student. This program provides additional academic support to help children prepare for the Reading and Mathematics PSSA exams in March 2009.

Saturday School sessions will be on the following dates from 8:30 am until 11:30 am: January 31; February 7, 21, and 28; and March 7 and 14.

Teachers will provide instruction and support in the areas of reading and mathematics. Breakfast, a snack, and recreation will be provided.

Note: Transportation will be the responsibility of parents and guardians.

PSSA Family Celebration. On Saturday, March 14, Fairless will host students and their families for a morning of fun and exploration. The event will feature PSSA-themed activities for students and families to enjoy together. **Lunch will be provided.** Dr. Vereen and the staff encourage all students and their families to participate in this event.

Check backpacks over the next few weeks for more information about this program and the PSSA Family Celebration.

Fairless water fundraiser and student rewards program

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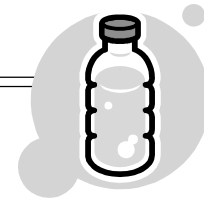
to reward students financially for their academic and behavioral efforts. Money serves as a powerful motivator.”

How will Fairless measure students' progress? Staff developed a mathematical formula to determine progress based on 4Sight test results. All students who make a 10 percent gain, or those who are advanced, will be recognized at Honors Assemblies. The Honors Assemblies will also continue to recognize students with excellent grades and students with excellent attendance records.

Fairless Water sales to fund cash awards. Here's where the Fairless Water Fundraiser comes in. Dr. Vereen is excited to announce that children recognized at Honors Assemblies will receive a cash award for their achievements. The money will come from the profit the PTO makes from selling bottled water under the Woodland Hills label. (See details to the right.)

In the future, Dr. Vereen would like to extend the new reward program to students who make appropriate behavior choices at school. She would also like to reward students who meet PSSA achievement goals. The goals will be determined by Fairless teachers and staff.

Growing the reward program will require a lot of planning and additional money. We need your support to accomplish this goal. You can start by helping your student sell a minimum of five (5) bottles of water. Order forms will come home soon.



Fairless Water Sale Facts

Fairless Water will sell for \$1 per 20-oz. bottle. The school is ordering a pallet, which contains 54 cases of 24 bottles each.

If each Fairless student sells 5 bottles of water, we will sell all of the water in the first pallet and make a profit of \$531.

Check backpacks over the next few weeks for details on this fundraiser, including order forms.

Donate a few hours

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Here's what you need to do to obtain your volunteer clearances:

- 1 Visit the WHSD web site at www.whsd.k12.pa.us.
- 2 From the District menu, choose Personnel, then Employment.
- 3 Click FBI Clearances link to download the forms.
- 4 Return the clearances to Mrs. Paull in the Fairless office.

Math Web Sites

Interactive Sites

www.funbrain.com

www.aaamath.com

www.ezschool.com

www.visualfractions.com

www.aplusmath.com

www.mathplayground.com

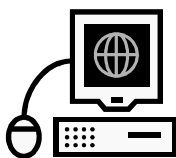
www.coolmath.com

www.rainforestmaths.com

Math Vocabulary Sites

www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com

[www.harcourtschool.com/
glossary/math2/
index_temp.html](http://www.harcourtschool.com/glossary/math2/index_temp.html)



Recycling for PTO Dollars

Did you know that Fairless has an Abitibi bin for recycling paper? The bin is located in the large parking lot next to the school. **Our school earns money** each time we fill up the Abitibi bin. Bring your paper product recycling to school or send it with your student in a paper or recyclable plastic grocery sack.

Here's what you can put in the bin: paper, including homework papers; newspapers; junk mail; envelopes; paper bags.

Please do not put phone books or cardboard in the recycling bin. These items are not accepted by Abitibi.

Bring Your Parent to School

Fairless will host its third annual Bring Your Parent to School Day on Thursday, February 12. The event will kick off at 12:45 pm with a reception.

After the reception ends at 1 pm, parents will follow their children into the classroom to participate in educational activities. Teachers will review test-taking strategies.

Our annual Music Demonstration will be held the same day after collaborative learning activities are finished. This demonstration features beginning musicians, those students who began learning their instruments this school year.

The Music Demonstration will begin immediately after classroom visits, around 2:15 pm.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Available

Did you know that your child may be eligible for tutoring at no cost? Fairless continues to be eligible to provide qualifying students with SES.

Mr. Fratangelo, Fairless counselor, will help you to determine whether your child qualifies for this free tutoring program. Services are provided at Rankin Christian Center or at Huntingdon Learning Center in Monroeville.

Fairless students have already begun receiving free tutorial support. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law determines which schools and students qualify to receive SES.

Questions? If you have questions about your child's eligibility or other program details, contact Mr. Fratangelo at 412-271-1317.