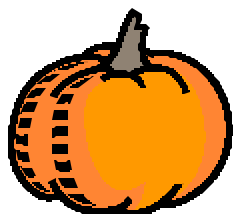


FALKTalk

Volume 13 Issue 1
October 2002



Inside This Issue:

Page 2

- * Director's Letter, continued
- * PTA President's Letter, continued

Page 3

- * Library News
- * PTA Vice President's Letter

Page 4

- * Library News, continued

Page 5

- * Back to School Sale
- * Music Notes

Page 6

- * Sally Foster
- * Falk School Playground

Page 7

- * Falk Multicultural Picnic
- * Computer Room News
- * Falk Talent Show

Page 8

- * Kudos to Nancy Glynn

From the Director...

John Dewey, the "father of democratic education", was asked near the end of his life what he had learned during his career. He replied, "What I have learned is that the purpose of education is to allow each individual to come into full possession of his or her personal power". (Byham,1992) Falk School strives to provide an environment that allows each student to select a path which leads to feelings of success and achievement, commitment, and self-responsibility.

Our faculty are known for the continuous learning activities they provide for all of our students. Each faculty member emphasizes "choice within parameters". Our students are encouraged to try new ideas and to take moderate risks when facing difficult challenges. This practice consumes a great deal of time and effort for all involved. But there is a great deal of pride and a marvelous sense of accomplishment in our school community - owning a job and feeling responsible for its outcome. We are empowered! We will be able to achieve with self-confidence, and we will be able to handle the hurdles we encounter in our lives beyond the classroom.

(Continued on page 2)

From the PTA President...

After having enjoyed a very hot summer full of fun, we have started our school year with continued warm weather, and sunshine streaming into our classrooms. I take that as a sign that this school year will be a warm, positive, and constructive one for our students, parents and staff. As a person who tries to lead life in acceptance of new opportunities, I am excited by the challenges that lie ahead in my role as PTA President. As an alumnus of Falk, and former student of Dr. William McDonald, I am overjoyed to experience a unique feeling of continuity and requital for the days I enjoyed as a child.

We always have so many activities to look forward to at Falk, and our first PTA events were quite successful and well attended. Our New Family Coffee and Special Subjects presentations boasted one of the highest numbers in recent meeting attendance. After all the hard work the "specials teachers" put into their programs, the parent interest was a most meaningful form of appreciation for all of them. Special thanks to Betsy Levine Brown, Sabina Rosenfeld, and

(Continued on page 2)

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

October 6 — Falk Multicultural Picnic
October 17 — Sally Foster orders delivered

DECEMBER

December 15 — All new Sally Foster orders placed by this date will be delivered by December 24.

APRIL 2003

April 3-4, 7-8 — Library Book Fair

From the Director... (continued)

“What I have learned is that the purpose of education is to allow each individual to come into full possession of his or her personal power.”

- John Dewey

I thank our teachers every day for their commitment to the students. I also want to thank our parents for their involvement in the process. Falk School is a special place because of you. We will continue to seek improvements and we will remain motivated because we feel improved education is a destination. Our school days go by quickly. We really enjoy what we do. I can hardly believe we have already been in school for a month!

The activity level is astounding, the children are excited, and I know more and better things are yet to come. Come and see us - observe the trust, the creativity, and the hunger for new challenges. We are very proud of who we are.

- William McDonald

From the PTA President... (continued)

Laura Zaspel Lawson for putting this fine event together. The curriculum meetings for primary, intermediate and middle school levels echoed the same feeling of parent interest and support.

As fall progresses we are enjoying our usual list of events, starting with one of our major fundraisers, Sally Foster Gift Wrap. (I love to hear the "ooohhh's" and "aaahhhh's" of delight from everyone, on the day the paper is delivered!) Picture day will have anxiously come and gone by the time you receive this first edition of FALKTalk. Our famous fun fall picnic, the Multicultural Picnic, will be held Sunday October 6 2002, 3-7 PM in a new location - Forest Hills Park. Jane Dirks always does an excellent job of lining up great ethnic foods, and activities for the whole family to enjoy, while getting to know other Falk families better. On Thursday October 10, 2002 at 7:30 PM, PTA Vice President, Pam Greenhouse, has planned a very informative General PTA Membership meeting including presentations from our interning teachers, and a report on the progress of the Falk School Vision Committee by Dr. McDonald. The McKeever Fall Environmental Education week for our middle school students will be October 21-24, and everyone prepares for the PTA sponsored Halloween party on the 31st. All the while parents, students and faculty are formulating ideas for performances in our annual Falk Talent Show, which will be held the first week of November.

We have so much to enjoy at Falk as is evident in what we do in only the first weeks of our school year. None of this, however "just happens". These PTA supported events are brought to Falk by an array of dedicated parent and teacher volunteers. Most of us started in apprentice positions helping committee chairs with events that we had talent and interest in. As volunteers have found the true essence of this quote from Oscar Hammerstein II: "There is a very real relationship, both quantitatively and qualitatively, between what you contribute and what you get out of this world". Your contribution in activities that directly impact your own children will be some of the most rewarding experiences of your life. I'm not just saying this, I know this because I am the mother of an adult child, and I am so glad I put time into his life in this way. (I am reaping the benefits of that time by enjoying a close adult relationship with that child!)

Please contact me with questions, suggestions, or concerns for the PTA at (412) 247-5351. My personal thanks to Tina Mattis for helping the PTA get started with her organizational and informational assistance. I'd also like to thank Sheila Talley-Armstead and Linda Spotts for their assistance as well, and especially for ordering the beautiful new furniture by the school office, unofficially known as the "PTA office". I'm there most mornings before school starts, as are many other PTA members. Come chat with us and get involved!

- Charlene Barnett

From the PTA Vice President...



GENERAL PTA MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 2002, 7:30PM
(Childcare Provided)

DR. WILLIAM MCDONALD
Director, Falk Laboratory School

Presents:

***FALK SCHOOL VISION
COMMITTEE PLAN:
BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE***

- Pamela Greenhouse

Library News

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

The library depends on parent volunteers to provide valuable support for the program. Circulation Volunteers work in the library about one afternoon a month during primary classes' circulation times. These volunteers check books out to students on the circulation computer, assist students in locating and selecting library materials, and assist Ms. Herward as needed during the class time. Contact Bonnie Gorscak if are interested (email is best bjgorscak@attbi.com) or Ms. Herward (412-624-8010 or herward@pitt.edu).

Current Volunteers Schedule:

Tuesday	Room 112	Kalyani Vats
Wednesday	Room 115	Martina Wells
Thursday	Room 111	Barb Rubinstein Laura Zaspel Lawson
Friday	Room 116	Jenny Grandis Barb Rubinstein

Library Coordinators and Gift Book Program: Bonnie Gorscak and Beatriz Kanterewicz

Special Projects: Donna Taylor and Nancy Glynn

Book Fair: Ann Kelton and Mary Tolomeo.

Additional Book Fair planning committee members are needed. Contact Ann Kelton, Book Fair Chair at 412-244-5722 for more information. Volunteers will be needed to work at the Library Book Fair, April 3-4, 7-8, 2003. This involves a one-time 2-3 hour time commitment. Contact Ann Kelton, see above.

BIRTHDAY/GIFT BOOK PROGRAM

The library and the PTA coordinate a Gift Book Program as a means of expanding the library collection while commemorating special times and special persons: birthdays, holidays, grandparents, teachers, interns and sometime even pets. An appropriate bookplate is placed in each book. All Falk students, teachers, interns, and staff benefit from the continuous updating of the collection.

Those students who have birthdays in the fall will be receiving letters inviting their families to participate in this program. Students with birthdays in the winter, spring and summer will receive information later in the year. Families may make donations at any time. Some families choose to make selections for siblings at the same time. Others make one book donation in honor of the family rather than individual books for each child. Write notes on the Gift Form as needed. Please keep in mind all dollar amounts are suggested donations.

Bonnie Gorscak and Beatriz Kanterewicz will coordinate this program with Ms. Herward. If you have any questions about the Birthday/Gift Book Program contact Ms. Herward (412-624-8010), Bonnie Gorscak (412-243-3672), or Beatriz Kanterewicz (412-521-7168).

Library News (continued)

LIBRARY GIFTS

Thank you to the many students and families who donated books at the end of the school year: **Alix Glynn, Geoff Beaman, Deryn Beaman, Amy N. Tran, Eva Resnick -Day, Nathan Resnick -Day, Tara Lee, Mary Ellen Watt -Morse, Anna Watt-Morse, Miriam Brostoff, Sanna Herwald, Peter Lambrou, Alexis Lambrou, Susannah Glick, Joaquin Gonzalez, Mark Bagnato, The Simmons Family, Tristan Zuroski, Melanie Grace, Neal Ryan, Barbara Johnson, Sarah Ryan, Patrick Ryan, Bonnie, Justin, and Matt Kitman, Benjamin Grace, Madeline Schmiedeknecht, The Rev. & Dr. Keith Conover, Ms. L. Herward, Drew McDermott, Sarah Finegold, Daniel Finegold, Rebecca Greenhouse, Melanie Halligan, Dr. Meyer Sonis, Hannah Famili, Todd and Bradley Stone, Rachel Weingart, Olivia McCann, Julia Blume, Ted Permigiani, Henry Permigiani, Allison Myer, Nalyn S. Komen, Arbil Lopez, Lucas Johnson, Brittany Jones, Gabrielle Rubinstein, Bani Randhawa, Nicholas Drohan, Sarah Hrusa, Ben Grandis, Anna Grandis, Smriti Aveeka Vats, Liam O'Donnell, Maeve O'Donnell, and Connor O'Donnell.** More complete information concerning these gifts is published on the Library Homepage (<http://tc.education.pitt.edu>) or see Library link on Falk School Homepage .

BOOK SELECTION

Students at Falk School have a wide range of reading interests and abilities. Every effort is made to assist students in making appropriate reading choices. Please contact Ms. Herward if you have concerns about your child's library book selections. Keep in mind parents may check books out of the library. See information under Heartwood Program most convenient times.

LIBRARY COMPUTER NETWORK

The library network has six student search stations, a circulation station, a librarian workstation, and the server. The library software has been updated to the Windows version of the library automation software from Follett Library Software. A new component to the program allows access to the library catalog over the Internet. A link to the catalog website can be found on the Library Homepage.

The network is connected to the Pitt network and the Internet. The library computer network is governed by the school technology policies including the Acceptable Use Policy. The Internet is accessed for school research only. Teachers and/or the librarian will identify websites for student use. Students Internet use is closely supervised.

THE HEARTWOOD PROGRAM

The Heartwood Program is a literature-based ethics curriculum for children. The program uses illustrated books from representative cultures around the world to help children understand seven attributes: courage, loyalty, justice, respect, hope, honesty, and love. The stories are primarily folklore, legends and hero tales. The books are read aloud in class and then discussed.

The different attributes are featured according to a schedule throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to read the books aloud with their children. Many of the books are available at the public library. Falk School Library has most of the main books and many of the supplementary books. Stop in the library after school Tuesday through Friday between 3:10-4:00 or before 8:30 to arrange to borrow books. Contact Ms. Herward (624-8010) for a complete list of the Heartwood books.

October -- Main Books for Courage

Abiyoyo by P. Seeger

Very Last First Time by J. Andrews

The Boy Who Held Back the Sea by L. Hart

Following the Drinking Gourd by J. Winter

The Flame of Peace by D. Lattimore

The People Who Hugged Trees by D. Rose

Supplemental Books For Courage

The Bridge Dancers by C. Saller

Call It Courage by A. Sperry

The Courage of Sara Noble by A. Dalgliesh

El Chino by A. Say

The Firebringer by M. Hodges

Mikko's Fortune by L. Kingman

Momotaro, the Peach Boy by L. Kingman

Messa's Fish by N. Luenn

St. George and the Dragon by M. Hodges

The Samurai's Daughter by R. San Souci

The Sleeper by D. Day

November -- Main Books for Loyalty

The Legend of the Bluebonnet by T. DePaola

The Seven Chinese Brothers by M. Mahy

Teammates by P. Golenbock

The Sailor Who Captured the Sea D. Lattimore

Cornrows by C. Yarbough

The Nightingale by H. C. Anderson

Heartwood Supplementary Books

Buffalo Woman by P. Goble

The Big Wave by P. Buck

Brothers: A Hebrew Legend by F. B. Freedman

Doodle Flute by D. Pinkwater

The Mousehole Cat A. Barber

Rosie and the Yellow Ribbon by T. DePaola

Summer of My German Soldier by B. Greene

Two Pair of Shoes by P. L. Travers

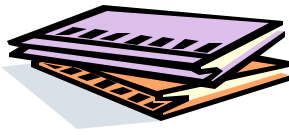
The Voice of the Great Bell by Hearn retold by M. Hodges

The Wave by M. Hodges

The Weaving of a Dream by M. Heyer

The Whipping Boy by S. Fleishman

- Linda Herward



Back to School Apparel Sale

Falk School still has inventory on several items that you may find useful as the school year begins.

For Middle Schoolers: As you know both the basketball season and the soccer team are upon us. We are selling Falk School Athletics sport bags. They great to bring to practices and games, and are large enough for all your equipment.

Also available are woven lanyards. They are handy way to keep track of all important keys.

Finally we still have the Baseball t-shirt for girls; it is a white shirt with navy blue sleeves and Falk School logo. It is appropriate for the New Dress Code.

For Primary and Intermediate students:

For both boys and girls we have a nice simple long sleeve shirt that is navy with white Falk School logo down the sleeve, and comes in youth and adult small sizes! Your child will be coming back to school in cool style.

As you can see we have many great items that are very handy and you can use time and time again! Is also a great way to show school spirit.

Stop by the office and see Sheila Talley-Armstead to purchase any of the items or call her at 412-624-8021 and support Falk!

- Nancy Delpresto

Music Notes

Things are up and running in the Music Room. This year promises to be a very busy one for Falk's musicians. Thank you to all who attended the PTA's New Parent Coffee—I enjoyed meeting you and sharing some music-making with you.

All students in grades 4-8 have the opportunity to participate in Falk's Instrumental Music Program. It's never too late to begin an instrument. If you haven't received a sign-up form and would like one, please let me know. Instruction is offered on flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French Horn, trombone and percussion instruments. The students receive a weekly lesson during the school day and are welcome to participate in our three bands. Our Intermediate Band meets on Friday mornings

from 8:00-8:30. Our Middle School Band meets on Thursdays from 12:30-1:00, and our Middle School Jazz Band meets on Monday mornings from 8:00-8:30.

The Falk Intermediate Chorus is open to all students in the Intermediate grades. We meet every Wednesday morning from 10:30-11:05. We are busy preparing for our October program.

Whenever you are in the building, please stop in the Music Room and visit us. We might even let you try out our new Ngoma.

- Lee Ann Conover



Sally Foster



Thanks again for all of your Sally Foster Gift Wrap orders! The orders will be delivered on Thursday, October 17th. If you can help distribute the orders, please contact Lori McDermott at 412-247-0397. Thanks.

Just a reminder.

If you missed your opportunity to purchase Sally Foster products during the Falk brochure sale or just wish you had purchased more...

Good News... IT IS NOT TOO LATE!!
Sallyfoster.com is open through December

and Falk school can still earn 50% profit on all orders placed on Falk's behalf. It's simple. Just go to sallyfoster.com, view the products and place your order. At the checkout screen, key in the city and state, then click on "school search" to find the Falk name. Enjoy the convenience of ordering on-line while helping FALK!

All order placed by December 15th will be delivered by December 24th.

Thanks again for making this years sale a success!!

- Lori McDermott

Falk School Playground

I don't think anyone can argue that Falk School is in need of a new and improved playground. The one we have now was constructed in 1975.

Playgrounds have vastly changed since our metal one was assembled. We are truly fortunate to have Jim Pashek as a Falk parent for as some of you may know he and his associates have planned, designed and constructed many of the wonderful play areas in the Pittsburgh area (he also did this in Czech Republic). I hope to have Jim speak (and show slides) about his experiences in playground building sometime this Fall. Although we have just embarked on planning this new playground, garnering ideas from the children and faculty, it is imperative that the fundraising not only begin but accelerate and build up quickly for this endeavor has a price tag of about \$100,000. Last year the PTA generated about \$5000 in excess of revenues (that rolled over to the Falk Fund) with the fund raising it has in place. It will take many years to get to 100K with that approach. So we all have to get serious and dig in and do some increased fundraising. Besides

any new events we may have, please be generous with the fund raisers already in place: Sally Foster, Carnival, Holiday Shop and with a fairly new one, computer cartridges. Last year with very few people participating we gathered \$1600 from that endeavor. Falk families, historically, are not asked to participate in many fund raising events and the general approach to them all is usually laissez faire. Well, if Falk school is to have a new playground, that time is over.

Please call me or Nancy Glynn, fund raiser extraordinaire, if you have new and large money making ideas and please help out, with your time and your money. If you want to be on the committee let Jim Pashek, Tracey Evans, Nancy DelPresto or Nancy Glynn know. All the children will benefit from this endeavor from K to 8th grade (yes, there will still be basketball!) so everyone has a stake in this, and everyone, I believe, will rise to the occasion in true Falk fashion to plan and build this playground. Our children are counting on it!

- Nancy DelPresto

Falk Multicultural Picnic

FALK MULTICULTURAL PICNIC

Everyone is invited! Save the date:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

2:00 - 7:00 PM

NEW VENUE:

Forest Hills Park/Playground,
Ardmore Blvd.

Be thinking about your favorite ethnic food to bring and share. Games, dancing and fun for all! Watch for a flyer about this great event for all Falk families and staff!

For more information or to help with planning, please call Jane Dirks, 412-242-5166 or email: chispadirks@yahoo.com.

— Jane Dirks

Computer Room News

Welcome to a new year in the computer room full of creativity, promise, and hope! The computer room has a new log-on system (Macintosh Manager) that allows for each person to have their own space on a server. In this manner, all users will be able to save their work without fear of it being lost or touched by others. The beginning of this year has been devoted to logging on all students and staff.

In the Middle School- students are creating very meaningful and complicated Identity Projects. Students work in groups. As a group, the students decide on a future company that they would like to own (profit or non-profit). The decision is made carefully and in consideration of many factors. Once a company is established, each group designs a logo, accompanying stationary items, an advertisement, a mission statement, and a video commercial. A field trip to Einhorn studios will take place. Einhorn Studios is a graphic design firm that creates Identity Packages similar to this assignment. New software, Print Shop has been added.

Intermediate Collaboration with Ms. Metcalf and Ms. Ridge has resulted in an Internet search project about Weather. Students will also use Kidspiration Software to create Venn Diagrams and answer questions about comparing the two Internet sites weatherchannel.com and [\[day.com\]\(http://day.com\). In another collaboration with Ms. O'Sullivan and Ms. Wertz, Intermediate computer students will be using an Internet puzzle site to complete their Reading Workshop projects.](http://usato-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Primary- In a collaborative effort, Primary students will be using KidPix software to express their learned knowledge about Safety and Nutrition.

Special Elective- Middle School- These students are using a new software program Car Builder. Car Builder lets students learn and design aerodynamic cars. It includes a neat feature for testing the vehicles against wind and road conditions. Students will also learn how to determine gas mileage.

Lastly, we are always interested in volunteers to help in the classroom (especially primary), to help organize information, to speak about related topics, and/or to help with field trips. We are also thankful for monetary donations that help us purchase additional software!

You can reach me at 412-648-8459 or e-mail me at bbianco@pitt.edu. Falk Schools website address is: www.pitt.edu/~fls.

Thank you!

—Barbara Bianco

Falk Talent Show

The Annual Falk School Talent Show will be here before you know it. This year promises to be bigger and better than ever, as we have some new ideas being formulated right now! If members of your family are planning on participating, look for

information to come to you very soon about how to sign up, and this years rules of our show slated for early November.

- Charlene Barnett



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FALKTalk

Kudos to Nancy Glynn



Kudos to Nancy Glynn

The PTA Executive Board would like the Falk family to know how lucky we are to have Nancy Glynn (mom of Alix Glynn in Room 111) involved in the PTA. Nancy's genius lies in the fund raising department (and probably several other areas as well) and she worked very hard last year in raising money for the

PTA and the school, with the computer ink cartridges being the most lucrative. The Board would like to thank Nancy for all her hard work last year and looks forward to future deals and successes. Thanks for sharing your talent with us.

- PTA Executive Board

Thanks for all your hard work, Nancy!