

# The Admiral's Log

2009-2010

[www.fispta.org](http://www.fispta.org)

February 2010



Our Future Looks Bright!

## How to Succeed with School Personnel

No child sails through his or her entire school life without at least a few rough waters. No matter what the issue, there are some tried-and-true ways to make dealing with problems at school smoother.

**Start with the teacher**—Call your child's teacher and set up a phone conference to discuss the problem, or have a face-to-face meeting at school either with or without your child. Only if unresolved should you take it to the next level...a meeting with the principal.

**Don't be afraid**—While teachers and principals are in positions of authority, they are adults just like you who are interested in your child's education and eager to make the situation better. Don't worry that raising issues with them will "hurt" your child in the classroom. Leaving problems unresolved can be more problematic.

**Think positively**—A positive attitude makes it easier for everyone to calmly discuss the issues and find solutions.

**Get the facts from both sides**—Get your child's version of the situation, bring examples of papers that illustrate your point, go through the issues with the teacher, and listen to his/her perspective.

**Take off the rose-colored glasses**—It's hard to hear a teacher say that your child is having issues in class, but the situation won't improve unless you

understand the teacher's side of things.

**Use some psychology**—No matter how frustrated you are, you can make the situation better if you offer positive comments. Teachers need to know that you see their good efforts as well.

**Be respectful**—Even if the teacher is "to blame," it's important that you and your child behave respectfully. Children learn what they live and should observe you treating others with respect at all times.

**Decide on a solution together**—Work with your child's teacher to come up with a written list of how to resolve the situation. Make sure everyone has a copy, and schedule a follow-up meeting to see what progress has been made.

**Follow up on your end**—If a teacher has asked you to work on some issues with your child at home, it's important that you do so.

**Be realistic**—Not every school year will be perfect. Sometimes, children and teachers just don't "click." But by dealing with situations calmly and by focusing on the solutions, you'll be making the best of the year for you and your child.

*Kay Wellons, Principal FIS*

*Excerpts of article from "Report to Parents," a publication of the National Association of Elementary School Principals*

## Project Heart Cart—Feb 8-12



Once again, Farragut Intermediate School PTA is helping sponsor Project Heart Cart, which benefits the Second Harvest Food Bank. Second Harvest is currently providing food to over 165,000 adults and children each month, and they need our help more than ever.

Although this has traditionally been a peanut butter drive, donations of all non-perishable food items will be accepted. Collection bins will be at school during the week of February 8-12. We are competing with other Knox County schools – the school collecting the most food (calculated on a pounds per student basis) will receive an ice cream sandwich party sponsored by Mayfield Dairy! **Last year we filled two bins, but I've requested three bins this year – I know we can do it!** Please help support this great cause - let's show our Admiral spirit and fill those bins!

**Deborah Dickerson**, FIS PTA Citizenship Chair, [citizenship@fispta.org](mailto:citizenship@fispta.org)

## Family Science Night

Due to snow in January, Family Science Night has been rescheduled for March 12, 6:30 p.m. We will begin our fun with...

### Weather Science

6:30 p.m.

March 12 at FIS

*Linda Byrd, FIS PTA Programs*



## Science Lab Update

The next **4<sup>th</sup> grade science lab parent orientation** is Monday, February 22nd, in the cafeteria. Two sessions are offered at 8:00 and 9:15 a.m. The "Moon Phases and Eclipses" lab will be conducted in the classrooms February 23rd-March 5th.

The next **3<sup>rd</sup> grade science lab parent orientation** is Friday, March 5, in the cafeteria. Two sessions are offered at 8:00 and 9:15 a.m. The topic is "Forces & Motion".

**5<sup>th</sup> grade** is currently conducting "Matter" Lab.

Please contact Lynn Flint, FIS PTA Science Lab Chair, if you have any questions or would like to volunteer - email: [science@fispta.org](mailto:science@fispta.org).

### WANTED: PARENTS WHO WANT TO SEE FIS BE THE BEST IT CAN BE!

The FIS PTA Nominating Committee is seeking parents interested in serving on the 2010-2011 FIS PTA Board of Managers. No experience necessary, and many positions are available. Contact Julie Ford, at [mauryandjulie@tds.net](mailto:mauryandjulie@tds.net) for more information.

### SAVE THE DATES

February	8-12	Project Heart Cart
	10	Donuts with Dad (4th grade)
	11	Contests Participant Party
	12	Gift Baskets and Guessing Jars
		Due for Family Fun Night
	12	Classroom door decoration judging
	15	Student Holiday
	17	PTA Founders Day
	18	Family Movie Night at Pinnacle
	19	Family Fun Night
	22	4th Grade Science Lab

Farragut Intermediate School

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## Family Fun Night is Going "Out of this World"

Going "Out of This World" at FIS PTA Family Fun Night on **February 19th from 5 to 9 p.m.**

Please plan to come and have a fun evening with the whole family. NEW Games, NEW inflatables, NEW Crafts, NEW DJ and dance contests plus the same great bake sale, guessing jars and the silent auction, including class baskets lots of good deals donated by area businesses. All proceeds go back into the school through PTA programs and gifts to school for classroom technology needs. You can have fun and support our kids too!

### **MEAL and TICKET PRE-ORDERS for Family Fun Night:**

Pre-ordering Meal Passes saves you \$2.00 per meal! The choices are: 8 Chick-Fil-A nuggets or 2 slices of cheese pizza. All meals include a drink and chips. *The pre-order cost is only \$4 for each meal!* The meals will be \$6 later. Each \$20 ticket bundle pre-ordered, *gets 5 free bonus tickets!* Tickets also come in \$5 and \$10 bundles. 1 Ticket = \$0.50 Wristbands also saves \$2 and gets you unlimited use of the inflatables in the FMS gym!

If your pre-form is lost, download one at [fispta.org](http://fispta.org). The deadline for pre-ordering at the lower prices has been extended to February 10th.

## Gift Baskets—What a Bargain!

The Family Fun Night Auction will be the place to be at FIS on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-8:30 p.m. The auction will be held in the FIS Gym, and the baskets will have "something for everyone". Themes include: **Movie night, Family night, Farragut Admirals, Pets, Hiking & Camping, Twilight, Space, Cooking and more!** The great thing about bidding on a basket is you will certainly receive your money's worth! If a basket is valued at \$100 – chances are bidding will not go that high, and a person can divide the contents among several recipients for birthday gifts, etc. Also – a gift basket makes a great gift for your child, spouse or teacher for Teacher Appreciation Week coming up in May! Bidding will end at 8:30 the evening of the event and baskets are to be paid for and picked up that night! (cash or check made payable to FIS PTA) See you then! Reminder: Class baskets are due to the FIS Lobby/Office on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades only).



**Farragut Admirals SPIRIT WEAR is back on sale for 3 weeks only!** Beginning Friday, February 19th, order your t-shirts, long sleeve tees, and sweatshirts featuring the popular distressed design offered last Fall. Stop by the Spirit Wear table at Family Fun Night to check your size and place your order or print an order form at [www.fispta.org](http://www.fispta.org). If you have any questions, please call Susan Horn at 607-9606 or Vicki Davide at 705-2838. GO ADMIRALS!

Keep on clipping! Each box top brings 10¢ directly back to FIS. We ran a special contest over the holidays, with the winners receiving a coupon for ice cream in the cafeteria. The winner for this "limited engagement" is Mrs. Cooper's 5th grade class. The Box Tops for Education program gives checks for schools again on March 1st. **Our previous check was for more than \$900!** Let's all work together to get another big check for FIS. If each student turns in one page of box tops, that would be over \$1,000! For more information, check out [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com).



## Clinic Notes

Over 20 outstanding FIS clinic volunteers have taken care of 1,700 students and handed out 1,000 band aids and ice packs since the beginning of school. With the exception of a few days, all school days have been filled with a Clinic volunteer. The Vol Spirit is certainly evident in the Clinic! Our volunteers have received First Aid School Clinic training from the American Red Cross. This training is paid for by the PTA. A variety of schedule opportunities are available to our volunteers. Working as a Clinic Volunteer is rewarding, fun, and a great way to interact with our students. If you are interested in learning more about student TLC, please contact Judith Lambert, Clinic Chair, at 659-0918 or stop in the Clinic for additional information.

## Camp Invention at FIS

In partnership with Invent Now Kids, Knox County Schools is pleased to offer the nationally-acclaimed, weeklong **Camp Invention program at Farragut Intermediate School** to children entering grades one through six. This exciting summer day experience immerses children in imaginative play that reinforces and supplements school-year learning through inquiry-based activities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Each day of the program week, children rotate through five integrated modules that require creative thinking to solve real-world challenges. Working together, children learn vital 21<sup>st</sup> century life skills such as problem-solving and teamwork through hands-on learning... disguised as fun!

This exciting week of activities begins on June 28, when retired Knox County principal Emily Lenn will direct the Camp Invention CREATE program. Children will be challenged to survive on a strange planet during the **Problem Solving on Planet ZAK**® module, rebuild a cleaner, more eco-friendly city in the **Saving Sludge City**™ module, and create amusement park rides during the **Imagination Point: Ride Physics**™ module. As with every Camp Invention program, the CREATE program will feature the **I Can Invent III**™ module, where younger children will take apart discarded household appliances and create fantasy inventions, while older children will use the pieces and parts to build Rube Goldberg machines. Also featured will be the **Global Games**™ module, where children will explore ancient cultures and sports like lacrosse and soccer from civilizations around the world. Local educators will facilitate the program modules, and enthusiastic high school and college students will serve as program counselors. This renowned program features a low staff-to-child ratio, with one staff member for every eight children.

The registration fee includes a Camp Invention T-shirt. Register before March 31st or with a friend to receive **\$25 off** the base price of \$215. Availability is limited, so visit [www.campinvention.org](http://www.campinvention.org) or call 800.968.4332 to reserve your child's spot today!

## Want the Weekly eNews?

Send your email address to:

**[corrsecretary@fispta.org](mailto:corrsecretary@fispta.org)**

to start receiving the weekly eNewsletter in between issues of the monthly *Admiral's Log*.



## Friends of FIS

### **Gold Level**

Dr. Bruce and Donna Offutt

### **Silver Level**

John and Suzanne Dalton  
Tom and Kathy Smith

### **Bronze Level**

John and Gincy Brewster  
Claudia Stallings  
Cat Clinic