



Heards Ferry Herald

▼ A weekly publication of the news and events of Heards Ferry Elementary School ▼

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From The PTA Co-Presidents

The first 2 months of this year have been a bit confusing with changes in classrooms, new teachers and new families. This past Wednesday, Ms. Dorenkamp met with the room parents to get everyone on the same page with regard to classroom funds donated by the parents, and some other classroom issues. We hope this will help you understand how funding should be handled within your classroom.

In years past, Heards Ferry had smaller class sizes and fewer parents participating in the funding of classroom activities. Thus, our standard PTA suggestion of no more than \$40 per family as a voluntary contribution for the classroom funds always resulted in a modest but sufficient amount for these parties and class gifts. However, now we have much larger class sizes, and the wonderful problem of very involved and generous parents! So, even though the room parents were following PTA guidelines this year, the end result has been some very large classroom funds in some grades. In some cases, it is much more than is necessary for what our parents should be funding within the classroom. At the same time, we have a couple of classes who still have very little participation in the funding, resulting in unusually low class funds.

At any grade, the classroom fund should cover the costs of 1) a Winter Break Party (held in December, the last week before school break, small treats and small craft is all that is necessary); 2) a Teacher & Assistant holiday gift; 3) an End of the Year Party (held the last week of school with small treat & small activity) and 4) an end of the year gift for the Teacher and Assistant. Classes should spend **no more than \$200 on both parties combined, and no more than \$300 on all teachers gifts combined for the year**. Thus, a \$500 room parent fund should be sufficient for any class. We do not celebrate teacher's or assistant's birthdays, nor hold any other parties during the year. Also, while we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week throughout the school in February, in-class activities that week are done through volunteering and usually contributing small items to a gift basket. No class funds should be used for Teacher Appreciation Week.

In many cases, parents will want to contribute items like crafts, cupcakes, etc. for the parties, and that is encouraged! Thus, a \$100 limit on class cash funding for each of these parties should be more than enough. Likewise, the PTA encourages parents to purchase things for the classroom through a teacher wish list (see the website or ask your teacher). This can be done anonymously, and decided upon by each family individually. There is no need for classroom funds to cover wish list needs nor should there be any class-wide fundraising occurring for these items.

Since this year is already underway, we know that some funds have already been raised and spent in a manner not covered above. We certainly do not expect anyone to ask for money or gifts back that have already been distributed or somehow "reverse" spending that has already occurred, since we were not clear on these guidelines before now. And, we will endeavor to be more specific next year about funding, now that we know how incredibly generous our parents are!

However, we are requesting that Room Parents of each class send Megan (megangrout@comcast.net) a total amount collected for each class fund to date, and how much has been spent so far this year. Please get it to her sometime next week. Megan does not need (or want) to know anything about participation within the class other than the totals. We will review the information to see that all classes have sufficient funds to cover their needs this year. If a particular class has excessive funding, we will discuss with those parents how best to use that funding to benefit the children, the grade, and/or the school as a whole. If a class has insufficient funding, we will work with the class to get them the funding they need. Many grades have already decided to pool all their class money and distribute it evenly amongst the classes. This has worked well in the past, and is certainly encouraged.

Some questions have been brought up about funding field trips and this will be addressed in next week's newsletter. Also, when discussing class parties, remember that we have many children of different religions at HFE, and that is a wonderful thing about our school. Please be sensitive to their feelings, and do your best to refer to December's class party as the Winter Break party. Sometimes, comments and activities specific to one religion that seem innocuous to adults can be very hurtful to children.

Overall, we acknowledge that this funding issue is a GREAT problem to have. We appreciate all our generous parents, and the level of parental involvement at Heards Ferry is what sets this school apart from many others. We also have no interest in turning Heards Ferry into a communist regime. (It doesn't work and Mao Zedong jackets are ugly.) But, we are trying to affect a reasonable balance between the classes, and between the grades, to keep all our children, teachers and parents happy. Thanks for understanding and please let us know if you have questions!

Amy Kilgore & Megan Grout

amykilgore@bellsouth.net megangrout@comcast.net

[New Articles](#)

Emergency Contact Information Report

On Friday, October 16th, you will find in your child's book bag the Emergency Contact Information Report. Please verify that all of the information is accurate and up to date. Sign, on the designated line, and **return to your child's homeroom teacher no later than Friday, October 30th**. Should you have any questions, contact Ms. Brown at (770)933-6190. ** If corrections or changes are necessary, mark them directly on the report.

Sally Foster Numbers Are In!

Once there was a mom with a bunch of free monkeys and a dream.....

Thanks to hard work by Margaret Brown and the generosity of HFE parents, family and friends...we reached our goal for much needed fundraising through Sally Foster. We exceeded \$14,000 in net profits! While our original goal had been \$12,000, with the increase in school population, we needed to get to \$14,000 and we did! Great job everyone! And, thanks to Sally Foster for giving us those monkeys they didn't want. Who knew they were worth \$14,000?! (Margaret did!)

Margaret also would like to extend her deep appreciation to all the students and parents who worked hard to accomplish this goal. It was a hard job made easier by the smiles and enthusiasm of all those wonderful HFE kids!

A special congratulations to our internet sales winners:

1st Place: Caroline Mason (3rd Grade) 2nd Place : Sophia Piana (4th Grade)
3rd Place: Alex Batka (Kindergarten) Special Recognition: Nelson Rodriguez (5th Grade)

Volunteers Needed

The AR awards party is scheduled for next Friday, October 23rd from 1:30 to 2:00, and we need some parents to help from 1:00 to 2:00. E-mail gigimcollins@bellsouth.net if you can help out. Thanks!

The School Store has "Monster Madness"!

Come check out the "Halloween" School Store this month!
We have Halloween pencils & erasers, Ghostly pens, Skeleton rings, and lots more fun!
Thank you for your continued support of the store! All profits go directly to the PTA!
Open every morning M-F!

To all Heards Ferry Parents

The clinic is in need of used clothes especially pants, shirts and socks of all sizes. Please remember to return the items that your children borrowed in time of need. Your help is much appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE!

It's time to spruce up our Heards Ferry Elementary School. Hands on Heards Ferry is scheduled for Sunday, November 8, from 1 to 5 pm. Put on your gardening and painting clothes and help your fellow schoolmates and their parents work on projects to enhance the appearance and aesthetics of our neighborhood school. We need a lot of people to accomplish all that is planned for that day. We need you to bring gloves and an appetite for work... we will supply the snacks and water. Come for the whole day or part of the day. If you have leaf blowers, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, hoes, clippers, post hole diggers, screw guns, drills, etc... we could use them to get our tasks accomplished. Just label them with your name and bring them with you. Any questions about the day, please get in touch with Jim Derrick at jim@jimderrick.com or Paul Krause at p.krause@mindspring.com.

This is a great day for the dads to put some extra time at the school. It's also a great opportunity for Cub Scout dens and Girl Scout troops to do projects that benefit the school.

RIVERWOOD HOMECOMING IS THIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH **6:00 – 6:30pm – Riverwood Homecoming Parade**

Parade begins at Mount Vernon Baptist Church and turns onto Powers Ferry at the traffic light and continues down Powers Ferry/Heards Drive and crosses the bridge turning into Riverwood at

the Practice Field entrance. Sidewalks along Powers Ferry and Heard's Drive are the perfect spot for parents and kids and the Riverwood Community to line the street to see the parade!

6:30 – 7:15pm – Tailgate Picnic on the Plaza in Hoskyn Stadium

7:15pm – Raider Walk

7:30pm – Game Time - Riverwood Raiders vs. Therrell

1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade Parents

Look for your child's Original Work coming home this week in a special folder!

Your child has created their artwork in school, using the regular art curriculum as the basis for their work of art. Now you have the opportunity to order whatever products you wish with your child's own artwork featured on each and every product. These make excellent holiday gifts while supporting HFE! **Orders along with the returned art are due in by October 26**

Questions? Christy Knight (404) 236-1795 or dudleylane@bellsouth.net

Reminders

The Book Fair is Coming!!

Heard's Ferry will host a Destinations themed Book Fair October 16th – 23rd in the media center including lots of fun activities. We hope both parents and students alike will help out our school community by shopping at this unique event.

Students who reach their AR goal for this period will earn an Early Bird shopping pass for the first Friday of the Book Fair. If you have students who are close to reaching their goal, please encourage them to do have all their AR tests taken by Wednesday, October 13th.

We'll have all sorts of promotions and prizes during Book Fair week to encourage our students to read around the world. On Thursday, we have a **Family Movie Night** planned where kids can watch the movie *Spy Kids* on a big screen in the cafeteria, and parents can shop upstairs in the media center. Remember, books make great holiday gifts! Students will also earn a free homework pass if they attend.

It's WAR!!

It's boys against girls in the "One for Books Program!"

One for Books is a program sponsored by Scholastic Books in conjunction with the Book Fair to raise money for our school community and provide books for underprivileged kids throughout America! Each year, thousands of schools across the country participate in One for Books. Scholastic matches the monetary donations schools generate, with a donation of up to one million books to three national non-profit organizations dedicated to helping kids and families in need: [Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc.](#), the [National Center for Family Literacy](#), and the [Marine Toys for Tots Foundation](#).

There will be two jars in the media center -- one for girls, and another for boys. Here's the catch though. Students will earn credit for all dollar bills and silver coins added to the jar. Pennies will count against your team. So, put your dimes, quarters and nickels in your jar, and your pennies in your opponent's. The winning side will earn an extra book checkout in the media center and school wide recognition of superiority! Questions? Email Ms. Marrin at marrinam@fultonschools.org.

Book Fair Volunteers Needed

Please volunteer to staff the Book Fair! Volunteers are needed to set up on Thursday, October 15th, and to staff sales for the following week, including our family night. Please stop by the front desk to pick a slot on the sign up sheet or email Angie Ponsell at angie@angieponsell.com. Volunteers will earn a \$5.00 gift certificate to spend at the Book Fair.

Reflections Projects

"Beauty Is..." Are due by Monday, **October 19th**. Please deliver projects to the Front Office to Ms. Johar who will keep them in a safe location for us! Remember to visit pta.org and click "Reflections" for detailed instructions by category. Contact Scottie Belfi (404) 786 9525 with any questions.

Dates to Remember	
	October
10/16-10/23	Book Fair
10/30	Story Book Character Day
	November
11/4	PTA meeting-9:30
11/4	Picture Make-Up Day
11/5	Principal's Coffee-States of the School
11/6	School Council-8:00
11/8	Hands On Heards Ferry
11/19	Fall Musical-7:00

The breakfast and lunch menus for the month are posted on the Heards website / School Information page and can be found on the FCBOE Nutrition website http://www.fultonschools.org/dept/schoolnutrition/menu_cal.shtml

Please note that the menu is subject to change

Equal opportunity employer and service provider.

Reasonable accommodations and modifications made for the disabled.
Contact 404-763-4585 TTY 1-800-255-0135

To submit articles for the newsletter

Please email Ms. Dorenkamp dorenkamp@fultonschools.org with the subject: Newsletter.... by each Wednesday at noon