

THE FARM SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday March 21st, 2008

Important Farm School Dates

Fri. Mar 21: Farm School Movie Night at the Community Center, 7 pm – potluck snacks
Fri. Mar 28: Discovery Center Field Trip, we will meet up with FS@H in Murfreesboro at 9 am
Fri. Apr. 4: No classes, Teacher In Service Day
Thurs. Apr. 17: Important PTSA meeting with guest speaker Jennifer Cantrell, 3:00 pm
Fri. Apr. 18: Farm School Community Dinner
Sat. Apr. 19: KTC Earth day in Nashville
Sat. Apr. 26: Earth Fest in Knoxville
Fri. May 2: Renaissance Festival Field Trip
Thurs. May 15 – Sun. May 18: 30th Annual NCACS Conference at Lamborn Vision School in Paonia, Colorado – Possible Farm School Trip

Discovery Center Murfreesboro - 3/28

On Friday, March 28, Farm School will leave our home campus at 7:30 am to meet up with our Farm School at Home counterparts at the Discovery Center in Murfreesboro at 9:00 am. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students. We will be taken on an environmentally educational “guided wetland tour” and will then have time to explore the museum. Be sure your student brings food (or cash) for breakfast and lunch as well as \$4 for fuel.

Tai Chi Chuan Classes at The Farm... Again

Tai Chi Chuan is an ancient Chinese martial art. People also study Tai Chi Chuan because it is a moving instantiation of Taoist philosophy. Practicing Tai Chi Chuan is a great way to learn the power of relaxing; the meaning of Yin and Yang; the importance of listening and how to diffuse, defuse and use energy projected at you by others.

Weekend Ti Chi Chuan classes on The Farm, with Peter Kindfield, will be restarting this Saturday and every Saturday thereafter 10:00-11:00 AM at or in front of The Farm School (weather permitting).

Financial opportunity for Students

Secondary students interested in earning some extra cash, contact Kathleen Rosemary at 215-7516.

Yoga Clothes

Please consider sending a change of “Yoga clothes” to leave at school so your student will have them here for those times when they have worn clothes to school that are not suitable for yoga class.

Steps to Peace Report from Zack

The peace rally was really wet. The funny thing was it didn't start raining until after the performers had all set up. Those performers who weren't afraid of ruining their guitars / keyboards / drums / whatever got up and were instantly drenched by the torrential downpour. There were about two hundred people at first, but then the numbers dwindled to seventy and it just kept raining. Finally we marched around for a bit, after two hours of sitting in the rain. I was glad we went, but I don't think we'd have gotten wetter if we went to the swimming pool and forgot to bring towels. It was really wet. ~ Zachary Thomas

Belcourt Community Meeting - 3/22

From the Friends of the Belcourt mailing list:

Join us Saturday, March 22 10:00am-11:30am for Step 1 of The Belcourt Theatre's Strategic Planning Process: This meeting is open to the entire Nashville and Middle Tennessee Community. We'll even have coffee and doughnuts. We need to hear from YOU! We hope to see you there. The Belcourt is now the last of the neighborhood theatres to remain operational, and is recognized as a unique cultural icon and as Nashville's choice for the best foreign, independent, and classic film, great musical performances, cutting-edge live theatre, and unique programming for kids and their families.

The Belcourt Theatre - 2102 Belcourt Avenue, Nashville, TN 37212 (615) 846-3150 Belcourt.Org

Quote of the week: “Each of us must learn to work not just for oneself, one's own family or nation, but for the benefit of all humankind. Universal responsibility is the key to human survival.

It is the best foundation for world peace.” ~ H. H. the Dalai Lama

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School Meeting Notes - Wed. 3/19

Agenda: Discovery Center, location of math classes, big brown chair, getting rid of our microwave oven, NCACS, graduation, sugar gliders, getting a rug for the secondary classroom and a possible new T-Shirt vendor.

Discussion and Resolutions: We discussed the elementary and middle school field trip to the discovery center on March 28. *Noah and Zack decided that they are young at heart and will join the rest of us making the discovery center a whole-school fieldtrip.* After a brief discussion about motives, *we agreed to move middle school math to the middle school room and high school math to the high school room (aren't we rocket scientists?). We also agreed to move the big brown chair, formerly known as the do-nothing chair, back out into the hallway.* After additional conversation about microwave ovens, *Noah and Winona agreed to think more about where it might be moved and share with the rest of us next meeting.* In the interest of time, Peter asked if he could briefly mention that he wanted input about regarding NCACS and graduation. NCACS is in Colorado this year May 16-18. If we go, we'll need to fundraise and probably not have an additional end-of-year camping trip. After some discussion about when the baby sugar gliders would be ready to leave their mothers, *we agreed to postpone making a decision about sugar gliders till next-year.* Everyone agreed that we would like a new rug for the high school room. Someone remembered that Kathie had mentioned her interest in buying us a rug. *Kim agreed to talk with Kathie about a new rug for the high school room on Thursday (we later recalled that Kathie is in Denver).* A new possible T-shirt vendor was postponed till next meeting, as Michael has been unable to do further research because our Internet connection has been down all week.

Next Week Topics: Microwave oven, NCACS, graduation, getting a rug for the secondary classroom and a possible new T-Shirt vendor.

PTSA Meeting Minutes - 3/20

Agenda: Farm School Vision, two announcements

Discussion: Peter began the meeting by asking everyone in attendance to answer the question "What do we want our students to get out of The Farm School?"

Amy: School credits applicable to higher education, and the ability to think critically for themselves.

Leah: Self esteem, confidence to choose any occupation, to have a sense of true choice when going to college, to build on a foundation of self esteem, and respect for wisdom.

Peter: Strong sense of self without arrogance, to know what they believe, strong opinions without stubbornness, comfort with self & with being a part of humanity, diversity is good, to know how to be with each other and how to disagree gracefully. Individual freedom is balanced within the boundaries of community

Tonya: to learn things they'd miss in public school, to be independent, able to make their own choices, freedom to express their creativity, to be compassionate and caring.

Marilyn: Community is the teacher; there is no more valuable lesson. We're passing on community to the students. Loving Kindness, a way to treat one another that's filled with concern to increase the chances of later enlightenment

Karuna: Freedom to do what I want, get classes I ask for, to learn what I want to learn

Michael: education without indoctrination & the freedom to shape their own curriculum

Marilyn: Hippie culture must be preserved!

Dennis: Skills to prepare students to live independently, like household math & nutrition, to be able to live within means without debt, to understand the political and social world around them. Basic skills to enable them to do well in entry level college, emphasis on peace and holistic education as opposed to school book curriculum, independent thinkers

Tonya: Even when Liz gets upset at Farm School, her spirit is not getting crushed like it was at public school. Students here are happy as opposed to fearful, sad and suppressed.

Peter also stated that he would like the PTSA come to an agreement regarding a "discipline policy" with a goal of mutual respect between students and teachers. He would like to have another discussion after everyone has had a chance to watch the "Unconditional Parenting" DVD. The school has 8 copies of the DVD to loan out; the following people currently have a copy: Dennis, Amy, Marilyn, Tonya, Michael, Leah, Peter, and Teresa.

Announcements: 1) At the next PTSA meeting (Thursday, April 17) we will have a guest from a non-governmental agency speaking on preventing abuse. 2) We have two open seats on the School Board and would like to have a "meet the candidates" PTSA meeting with a goal of an active & engaged School Board. (Meeting notes taken by Michael)

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