



## PTO Newsletter



December Edition

### Events

**Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2010** in the Foothill Library, from 6:00 to 7:30pm. Please join us to discuss ongoing, upcoming and new PTO projects, learn about volunteer opportunities at Foothill, and meet other parents in the Foothill community. Childcare will be provided by Karen Viggio; please add your child/ren to the list by emailing Annie Weber prior to the meeting date at [annie.weber@yahoo.com](mailto:annie.weber@yahoo.com).

### Next Bingo is in January, 2010!

Please join us for another fun-filled family night! The third BINGO of the school year – benefiting Foothill's 1<sup>st</sup> GRADE CLASSROOMS - will be held on **Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010** in the cafeteria. Admission is \$2/person; bingo cards are \$1/each, with all proceeds going directly to the grade classrooms. Mark your calendars now, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade families, please see the VOLUNTEER sign-up sheet at the end of the newsletter with information on donating your time or snack items! For general questions about BINGO or to volunteer, please contact Cristina McGarr at 303- or [cristina@mcgarrfamily.com](mailto:cristina@mcgarrfamily.com). See you at BINGO!

5:30-6:00pm PIZZA, DRINKS, POPCORN & TREATS

6:00-7:30pm BINGO

### Foothill Talent Show

Lights! Camera! Action!

*The Foothill Fox Follies* **Talent Show 2010** is coming in January!

Parents: Please save the following dates and make arrangements to shift any other regular commitments your child may have that conflict with auditions, rehearsals and the show.

Dec 9 – 16<sup>th</sup>: Sign-ups (posted outside music room)

January 11: K-2 auditions (after school; big gym)

January 12: 3-5 Auditions (after school; big gym)

January 13: K-2 Rehearsal (after school; big gym)

January 14: 3-5 Rehearsal (after school; big gym)

January 20: K-2 Dress Rehearsal (after school; big gym)

January 21: 3-5 Dress Rehearsal (after school; big gym)

January 22: K-2 and 3-5 Shows (matinee and evening)

January 25: Cast Party (after school)

We're looking for a few good volunteers. Please email Lauren Larsen for helping with either show at [Lauren@InTheTelling.com](mailto:Lauren@InTheTelling.com).

## Updates & Thanks

### **PTO Board Position Open**

The PTO is currently looking for a volunteer to take on the position of Recording Secretary for the duration of the 2009/2010 school year. This person will commit to attending all remaining PTO and board meetings, and is primarily responsible for note-taking at meetings and the preparing meeting minutes for posting on the website. For more information on the position, please contact PTO President Susie Wyman at [swymanpto@gmail.com](mailto:swymanpto@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **Fox Tracks**

We are well into our 4th round of wristband awards, and have now handed out over 650 wristbands! That is a lot of car-free trips to the school! Foothill is rocking the friendly competition between our school, Crestview and Almond Elementary. Be sure to notice our graph on the Fox Tracks bulletin board.

Our last wristband handout will be Friday, December 18th. Please make sure that your Freiker/bus riding account is up-to-date with the appropriately logged-in days by Monday, December 14.

After winter break, we will be using the mileage data you have given us to map each grades' progress around the countries they will be studying this Spring. We need some extra volunteers to help us with this task. If you can volunteer just a little bit of your time, we would really appreciate it. Thanks! Blair Norman [blairnorman@mac.com](mailto:blairnorman@mac.com)

### **Walk to School Day Final Results**

The lovely October day proved to be a success with an 82% participation rate, including teachers. On International Walk & Bike to School Day (October 7, 2009) 91% of Foothill students were represented. The breakdown was as follows:

18% walked  
29% biked  
27% took the bus  
.3% took RTD  
17% drove

Congratulations Foothill families for doing a fantastic job. See you again in April!

"Jump on the Bus... Gus!"

Would you like your student to take a bus to school but don't know where to get the details? Please contact Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) Transportation at 720-561-5125 for information on routes, times, stop locations and more. If you're ready to give it a go, you can always hop on the bus for a time or two with your student to help them their first couple of times. Also let their teacher know they are new to the system so he/she can help. Good luck, and have fun!

Are you interested in carpooling but don't know who lives and works close to you? Ride Arrangers of Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) can help with this if there is enough interest from Foothill parents. If you are interested, please contact Mary Closser at [maclosser@gmail.com](mailto:maclosser@gmail.com). If responses are significant, Foothill will look into working with Ride Arrangers for 2010.

## **BINGO!**

Thanks to everyone who supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bingo Night in November! It was another huge success, with over \$1,000 raised to benefit our third grade classrooms. As always, we appreciate everyone's participation, the volunteers who help make it happen, and generous contributions from our fabulous Foothill families!

## **Foothill Elementary Community Atlas**

Did you help Foothill Elementary celebrate Heritage Night or GIS Day (Geographic Information Systems) in November? Are you interested in creating a valuable digital resource for the Foothill Elementary community? Imagine a computerized map of the school area, where various groups and classes could capture information they gather about our school community, learn about interpreting their findings, and share their views of our school area among us, or even with others interested in learning about our place by the beautiful hills of Boulder, Colorado! For example, students and teachers could compare their own survey findings to information already published about the school area. Information about the environment around the school could be identified and evaluated to see if there are ways to improve our ecological impact. Routes to school could be examined for safety purposes. Foothill students could conduct their own census while the National Census is taking place! (Any information planned for collection would be generalized to protect privacy.) Foothill may be able to qualify for Geographic computer software to use for this and other location-based projects which can benefit our classrooms. If you're interested in looking into this opportunity and learning worthwhile computer skills, please email [FoothillAtlas@gmail.com](mailto:FoothillAtlas@gmail.com). Help Foothill Elementary to explore its fascinating community!

Many thanks!

Diane Harpold

(Mom of Dylan Rodgers, 3-W, and Bryn Rodgers, K-Lpm)

## **Garden to Table Program**

Thanks to the efforts of about 40 volunteers, Foothill has installed the first phase of the garden for planting this spring! The garden will compost over the winter and should yield some very nice crops this year. In the meantime, the Garden to Table committee is looking for more volunteers to support this effort. We especially need volunteers with expertise in the following areas:

- Design and layout of the garden and outdoor classroom. We need landscape architects!
- Communications team to keep the school apprised of specific garden projects and needs.
- Curriculum liaisons to help teachers at every grade level plan and implement lessons involving the garden.
- People willing to take lead roles in these three areas.

Putting the garden in was a terrific accomplishment, but we need ongoing support from parents to bring it all together. No gardening experience is required, just enthusiasm for this program. Contact Kathy Tucker at [tuckerk7@gmail.com](mailto:tuckerk7@gmail.com) to learn more about volunteering.

## **K-Kids Club**

Results from the K-Kids' Food & Personal Items Drive

Thank you, Foothill Families, for donating your items to the K-Kids drive in October.

Altogether we raised 569 items total - that's over \$250 worth of items! Everything was donated to either EFFA or The Boulder Shelter for the Homeless.

Thank you for supporting your community!

Ana Figel - K-Kids Secretary

### Share-A-Coat

Thanks to all the families who donated coats, hats, and mittens to the Foothill K-Kids community service collection drive. It was sponsored by the Boulder Valley Rotary Club and Art Cleaners. Donated items will be cleaned and distributed to Boulder County children and adults in need. Thanks for your support!

### Share-A-Gift November 30-December 16, 2009

Share-A-Gift is an all-volunteer annual holiday project that provides toys, bikes, and books for children of low income families in the area of the Boulder Valley School District in Colorado since 1972. Each year approximately 2000 girls and boys, birth to age 14, receive these community donations. The Foothill K-Kids community service club will be placing collection bins for these items in the front hall of the school after the Thanksgiving break. Please contribute your new or gently used items. More information available at [www.shareagift.org](http://www.shareagift.org).

### **Foothill Family Heritage Potluck**

The Foothill Diversity Committee would like to thank Don Dulchinos and the PTO for their support of Heritage Night Potluck! Thanks to Don for his hard work planning the event and thanks to the PTO for the financial support to bring in the storyteller, Kutandara, and the Heritage Irish Step Dancers! And parents Adrienne Deorsay, Tina Hirshland, and Mara Fleishman have our absolute gratitude for working tirelessly before and during the event! If you attended Heritage Night and have comments/ideas, and/or want to volunteer for the event next year, please contact Carrie Cavanaugh at [carrie.cavanaugh@bvsd.org](mailto:carrie.cavanaugh@bvsd.org). Thanks! Carrie Cavanaugh-ESL Teacher, Foothill Elementary

### **Feed the Fox**

It was brought to the PTO's attention that some families may not have received their thank you letter and tax receipt for donations to the Feed the Fox fundraiser. If you need a receipt for tax purposes or have any questions regarding your contribution, please contact Laura Rogers at [laura\\_rogers@comcast.net](mailto:laura_rogers@comcast.net). Thanks again for your generous donations this year!

### **PayBack coupon books are still available at Foothill!**

The Foothill PTO is still offering Payback coupon books for sale as a family benefit/PTO fundraiser. As we head into the season for holiday shopping, dining out, and entertaining, this coupon book will save you LOTS of money, with discounts like \$5 off purchases and 20% off specials. Plus, funds raised from the sale of these coupon books (\$10 per book in profits for Foothill!) come directly to the PTO, while you and your family will enjoy savings at merchants like Glacier Ice Cream, PlayFair Toys, Grand Rabbit's Toy Shoppe, Sunflower Farmer's Market, and two of Colorado's favorite ski areas (Copper Mountain and Winter Park)! The Payback book is available to you simply by contacting our coupon book sales coordinator, Annie Weber, at [annie.weber@yahoo.com](mailto:annie.weber@yahoo.com). We can send books directly home with your child/ren and accept payment through your child/ren's teacher/classroom. Thanks again for your support!

## **PTO Newsletter/Foothill Flyer**

Please remember that the PTO is committed to utilizing the newsletter and/or monthly Foothill Flyer to convey important event information, dates, volunteer needs, and gratitude to our Foothill community. We are continually working to streamline communications, and strive to be as paper-free as possible in the process! Parents, please watch these publications for important reminders, updates, and general information about happenings at Foothill! **NEXT PTO NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, January 8, 2010**

## **Green Star Schools**

### Green Star Winter Party Tips

'Tis the season for entertaining and holiday parties! Did you know that Americans produce an extra five million tons of trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve? Let's help reduce this number by setting a goal of zero waste for our classroom parties.

- ❖ Decorate with nature! Simple items such as pinecones and apples make wonderful decorations that the kids will love. Create fragrant pomanders by hanging oranges with natural raffia and studding them with whole cloves.
- ❖ Provide finger foods that require no utensils and can be served on napkins or paper towels, which are compostable.
- ❖ Promote homemade goodies and snacks purchased in bulk, without individual wrappers. Remember, almost all packaging around individual servings of purchased snacks is trash.
- ❖ Use washable, reusable plates and cups. Every classroom at Foothill has its own set.
- ❖ If you are using table coverings, avoid plastic tablecloths that are disposable. School butcher paper can be decorated by students and composted after the party. Remove any cellophane or plastic tape before composting.
- ❖ Choose games that can be used season after season and create crafts and gift items that can be kept and enjoyed. Make sure that the crafts are recyclable or compostable.
- ❖ Compost and recycle food scraps and leftover party items.

All of our classrooms at Foothill have been outfitted with reusable plates and cups. Additional reusable plates, cups, bowls and flatware are available for class and school events. Please contact Machal Gillach at [mayoshihara@yahoo.com](mailto:mayoshihara@yahoo.com) for further information about these items. Happy Holidays!

## BINGO VOLUNTEERS

Dear 1<sup>st</sup> grade Parents,

The 1<sup>st</sup> Grade is hosting the next Bingo Fundraiser of the year on Friday, January 29, 2010 from 5:30 - 7:30pm. This is a great opportunity to support your child's classroom while having a social night out with other families from our school community. All proceeds from this event go DIRECTLY to the hosting grade's classrooms and will greatly benefit the 1<sup>st</sup> grade - but this cannot be done without your help!

If you are willing to help in any way, please contact Cristina McGarr by e-mail at [cristina@mcgarrfamily.com](mailto:cristina@mcgarrfamily.com) or by phone at 303-440-7273 as soon as possible (but no later than Wednesday, January 20, 2010).

This BINGO event will be a fun *and* fund-raising opportunity for our FIRST grade classrooms. If there are not enough volunteers, the event will be canceled. Please help us make this a successful BINGO event! The teachers greatly appreciate our help in raising money for the classrooms.

**Thank you very much!!**

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### **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS *and* DONATED ITEMS**

If you are interested, would you prefer to donate an item (such as treats, drinks, or prizes) or volunteer your time during Bingo? Please e-mail Cristina the following information:

Your name/phone number/email AND your child's name/teacher

**Please indicate whether you would prefer to:**

- \* Volunteer your time – this would be a 1-hour time commitment to help set up, distribute food or collect money.
  - \* Volunteer to donate drinks and snacks. Drinks include bottled water, canned juices or non-caffeinated sodas. Snacks can include baked goods, individual packages of pretzels, crackers, fruit or granola bars, or candy.
  - \* Donate prize(s) – Age appropriate, gender specific and neutral.
  - \* Make a monetary donation – we will apply it towards grand prize purchases, supplies and/or the 1<sup>st</sup> grade fund.
- \*\*Donated prizes, snacks and drinks should be dropped off in 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms by Friday, January 22, 2010.**

**Please contact Cristina McGarr at 303-440-7273 or via email at: [cristina@mcgarrfamily.com](mailto:cristina@mcgarrfamily.com) with any questions, or to volunteer!**  
**Thank you!**