
FPI Alumni News



P.O. Box 1731 College Station, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22402

Volume 1 Winter, 2008

Message from the Board

Hello from Fredericksburg Cooperative Preschool! This is a big year for FPI as we are celebrating a number of anniversaries.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the Fredericksburg Cooperative Nursery School at Mary Washington College! Thanks to all of the FPI families and their contributions over the years, we continue to thrive in downtown Fredericksburg. We are kicking off our Alumni program to keep you informed, include you in our celebration plans, and to assemble a database of alumni who are interested in participating in Alumni events and hearing news about FPI.

Several other anniversaries we are also celebrating include:

- Our 20th anniversary of our location at the Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church
- The 10th Anniversary of our Music Teacher, Mrs. Schindler
- The 7th Anniversary of Mrs. Michel, our Aide for the 3's and 4's
- The 5th Anniversary of our two teachers, Mrs. Viverette (3's) and Mrs. Cannon (4's).

In addition to the Alumni Celebration we have planned for April the 12th, which is an Alumni Dinner and Silent Auction, current FPI families have been hard at work on a few key projects:

- √ Overhauling the playground – Upgrading the swing set, painting and repairing the fence, and replacing the mulch while seeking more permanent resilient surface alternatives.

- √ Pursuing NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) reaccreditation, which involves evidence from surveys and classroom & program portfolios.
- √ Revamping the Family and Staff Handbooks, procedures and paperwork to reflect changes implemented at FPI in order to remain compliant with Virginia State Licensing.

We look forward to seeing you at the 30th Anniversary Celebration.

Rose Huffman

2007-2008 FPI President

2006 Alumni Spaghetti Dinner & Flamingo Flocking Benefits FPI Students

Thanks to Laurel McLeod and the rest of the FPI families that ran, supported and participated in the first FPI Spaghetti dinner, as well as the Alumni Flamingo Flocking! As a result of many generous contributions, FPI was able to purchase the following learning toys for our FPI children:

- Ben Hur tricycle with passenger cargo
- Basketball hoop
- Set of 4 multi-ethnic 12" baby dolls
- Duplo people
- Lego Community Workers
- Lego Wheels
- 4 Play tubs (for water/sand play)
- Pretend people for large wooden block play
- Hardwood Table and Chair set for the kitchen
- Multi-ethnic posable doll families for the dollhouse



FPI Celebrates 30 Years with Alumni Dinner and Silent Auction



Mark your calendars! April 12th is the date for the second Alumni Dinner. This time we are having a Fiesta!

Salsarita's Fresh Cantina (owned by Alumni and Current Members Mark and Laurie Walter) is providing a taco and nacho bar with the current membership providing desserts.

But wait, that's not all! There will be fun for the kids, photo opportunities, classroom tours, time to visit with old friends, maybe even see your former teacher and a silent auction.

FPI current members have been gathering prizes from local merchants and the talents of FPI. Restaurant Gift Certificates, a Birthday Party at The Fredericksburg Fieldhouse, Gym memberships with Personal Training sessions, and Handmade Jewelry are just a few of the prizes for the silent auction!

The funds that are raised from the Alumni Dinner and silent auction will be directed toward Rubber Mulch, a more long-lasting mulch solution - pending final Church approval. We estimate it will take \$5000 for the long-lasting surface. We have set that amount as our very lofty fundraising goal!

Please register by March 25th using the enclosed form. The cost is only \$10/adult, \$5/child or \$30 maximum/family.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the Alumni Reunion!

Unable to attend but you'd still like to help out or participate in the silent auction?! Here is how you can help:

- √ Log onto our Website beginning April 1st to look at the prizes and submit silent auction bids. Current members will bid for you on the big night. Log onto: fpi.communitypoint.org and click on Auction.
- √ Provide a donated good or service for the Silent Auction. Contact Laurel McLeod at (540)373-3207 or Rose Huffman (540)538-4515 with questions or to donate.
- √ Donate to the alumni 30th Anniversary fund using the attached form.

Help FPI When you Shop Online

Did you know you can help FPI without spending an extra dime?

When you go to our website at: fpi.communitypoint.org and click on **Fundraising**, then the **amazon.com** link or register for **schoolpop**, FPI benefits and it's only 1 extra click.

Since we started our participation in these programs in November of 2007, we have already earned over \$175.00!

Please pass along our link to your family and friends!



Pearls of Wisdom from a Current FPI Member

Note: Following are excerpts from an article published in a recent FPI Newsletter by Tracy Wilson, our 4's class liaison.

I recently had a discussion with my children about differences. Differences in personality, differences in interests, differences in the way we look and think. It started out as a disagreement between two of the girls. They are very different in the way they look AND the way they think. But they are still sisters. Forever. I told them to think of a quilt. At first, it is different pieces of fabric in different shapes and different colors. Many of them do not match or even seem to look good next to each other. Their shapes are different and do not quite fit. Sometimes they may even clash! But once they are laid next to each and sewn together lovingly, they present quite a different picture. What was once seen as too different to ever look good together, suddenly becomes a whole new thing. Once they are together in the quilt it creates this new amazing masterpiece. I told my girls that this describes our family to a T. We are all different. We look different, we have different interests, some of us are morning people and others are night owls. Some of us have blue eyes and some have brown. Some are little, some are big. Some are quiet, some are loud. Some like to argue and others avoid it at all costs.

But when you put us all together, we make a family. A beautiful, wonderful unit that is enhanced by our differences. By ourselves we are unique and wonderful. Put together as a family we are even better. Even more beautiful. One of a kind. We compliment each other, we support each other, we cover up each other's weaknesses and we bring out each other's beauty and strengths. We are stronger and more lovely together than we could ever be alone.

The same can be said for the FPI family. Each of us on our own has strengths and weaknesses. We are all very different. You might wonder

how we could ever agree on anything at the member meetings. Or how a preschool can run effectively when everyone is given a say in how to do things. We each bring our talents and gifts and personalities to the mix. Together we are better than we could ever be alone. We are the beautiful scraps of fabric that alone seem to clash with each other. We all have different backgrounds and interests and reasons for being here. But once we are joined together with a common mission, we are stronger and better than before. FPI is one of a kind and nothing else quite measured up to it in my search for a preschool.

Each of us is one piece of the quilt that when joined together is a beautiful thing. Some of us are like the big, bright pieces of fabric that draw everyone's attention and are the focal point of the quilt. Some are like the edging that holds it all together quietly and keeps us from getting out of line. And then some of us are like the stitching. You hardly notice how these people add to the dynamics of FPI. They may be quiet or work behind the scenes and you never even notice what they have done to add to the beauty of our FPI quilt.. But without the stitching in a quilt, it would all fall apart. It is just as important as the showy scraps of material or the decorations that might be added. Whatever your talent or gift, you can be sure that FPI is stronger and better because of it and we are all so thankful for each and every parent, their gifts and talents, and the time they dedicate to our preschool. After all, our time and dedication only benefits all of our wonderful children, who are unique and beautiful and make up their own very special FPI quilt. If, by chance, you have not found your niche yet at FPI, don't worry. Think about what you are good at, how you can be a blessing to the children, and then dive in! Our FPI "quilt" is a unique, one of a kind, work of art. It can only be that way because we are all so very different, and thank goodness we are!





Celebrate 30 Years of FPI

Alumni Dinner & Silent Auction



Date: Saturday April 12, 2008

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Place: FPI – 810 Princess Anne Street

Who: FPI Alumni Students and Family



Reunite With Old Friends • Good Food •
Classroom Tours • View Scrapbooks • Kids
Activities • Silent Auction • Photo
Opportunities • Relive "the good old years"
• Celebrate 30 Years of FPI • Celebrate 20
Years at our current location • Recognize 10
Years of Music by Mrs. Schindler •
Recognize the dedication and teaching by
Mrs. Michel (7 years) and by Mrs. Cannon &
Mrs. Viverette (5 years each)



Featuring
Taco and Nacho Bar by



Desserts by FPI Current Members

Did you know?

... FPI was recognized among Top Preschools by the Northern Virginia Magazine, Jan. 2008 edition?

... FPI received NAEYC Accreditation in 2000, and is currently working towards reaccreditation for 2008 – 2009?

... FPI presented the Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church with two beautiful metal benches with commemorative plaques, to mark 20 years at our current location?
(Thanks to the Henzler Family for the plaques)

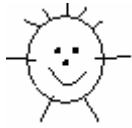
... After updating our Family and Staff Handbooks, revamping paperwork and procedures, and implementing safety improvements, we passed our State Licensing Inspection with *zero* violations?

IN SEARCH OF: FPI Alumni!

Are you in contact with FPI Alumni that did not receive our newsletter, but are interested in staying in touch? Email us at FredericksburgPreschool@yahoo.com or call Rose Huffman at 540.785.2070 with their information. Even easier, have them log onto our website at fpi.communitypoint.org and click on Alumni. They can read the Alumni Newsletter and sign up to be added to our mailing list.

We are also looking for former teachers and aides. Check the FPI website to see which teachers are planning to attend our 30 Year Celebration. As we get commitments, we will update the Alumni Page with event information.





ALUMNI REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Years You Attended FPI: _____

Alumni Dinner: # of Adults: _____ # of Children _____

(please complete above even if paying the family rate so we may have enough food)

\$10/adult: _____ \$5/Child: _____ \$30/entire family: _____

I am interested in the following (please check all that apply)

- _____ More information on FPI
- _____ More information on the Silent Auction
- _____ More information on the Fundraiser
- _____ FPI Restaurant Nights
- _____ Receiving Alumni Updates
- _____ Future Alumni Gatherings

Alumni Donation: I/We would like to donate to the FPI Alumni Fundraiser to help FPI meet their \$5000 goal for the playground. Note: FPI is a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible.

- Mrs. Cannon/Mrs. Viverette Anniversary Level.....\$ 5.00 _____
- Mrs. Michel Years of Service Level.....\$ 7.00 _____
- Mrs. Schindler Anniversary Level..... \$10.00 _____
- Current Location Anniversary Level.....\$20.00 _____
- FPI Anniversary Level.....\$30.00 _____
- One for each Child Level..... \$30.00 / child attending FPI = _____
- FPI Guy Level.....\$50.00 _____
- Other..... \$ _____

Total Enclosed: Alumni Dinner: _____

Alumni Donation: _____

TOTAL: _____ (THANK YOU!!)

Please make checks payable to: FPI

Please return your reservation for the Alumni Dinner by March 25th to:

P.O. Box 1731 College Station, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22402

Calling all FPI Alumni

We want to hear from you! Did an FPI alum just win the spelling bee? Are you an alumnus who recently graduated college or got married? Tell us your story. We'd love to hear from you. We'd like to feature alumni in upcoming FPI Alumni Newsletters. Simply do one of the following:

- Log onto our website at: <http://fpi.communitypoint.org/> and select Alumni. From there you can send us your information.
- Email us at FredericksburgPreschool@yahoo.com
- Fill out the Information Form below and mail it back to: P.O. Box 1731 College Station Fredericksburg, VA 22402

Alumni Information Sheet

Student Name(s): _____

Year(s) Attended FPI: _____

Recent Accomplishments: (Sports, school, the Arts, employment, etc.) _____

College Graduate (List college, degree, year) _____

Marriage (List date/year/Spouse) _____

Other (Please tell us more) _____

Mail from FPI



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