

The Advocate

Mount Daniel Elementary — Grades K-1

SEPTEMBER 2006

Thomas Jefferson Elementary — Grades 2-4

From the President

Kathleen Donovan

I must confess ... your PTA President is a bit of a "Back to School" junkie. From the time the children bring home their school supply lists in June until the shopping aisles are decked with 10¢ folders and 50¢ crayon boxes, I just can't wait to get in there and start checking off the lists and organizing the backpacks. I even love the Survivor School Supplies Shopping outings... the challenge of puzzling over the lists... *does large glue stick really mean jumbo? Where might one find a white plastic pocket folder with fasteners?* (Yes, I know, folks like me should *absolutely* sign up for our fabulous PTA School Supply program!)

On a deeper level, though, I suppose it's not **totally** about the new school supplies. I love the new beginning and fresh start of each year, and the promise and excitement of our children returning to schools where they will be welcomed by staff that will support, nurture and challenge them as they embark on another year of learning.

It was wonderful dropping by Mount Daniel and TJ during the last week of summer vacation, and sensing the anticipation in the air. The floors are gleaming, the classrooms are sparkling, and the cheerful bulletin boards are at the ready. From our dedicated maintenance and support services staff to our teachers and our principals, TJ and Mount Daniel staff have been working diligently to prepare for the opening of school, and I know you will join me in expressing our appreciation.

Your PTA has been hard at work this summer as well, and one of our goals this year is to serve as a resource to you, our families. One exciting project our webmaster, Laurie Clark, has been working on is adding a Parent Resources page to our Web site. Feel free to contact her at sclaurie@aol.com if you have suggestions.

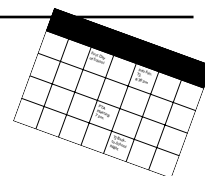
September PTA Meeting

Join us for the first 2006-07 PTA Meeting on September 20th in the Mount Daniel Multipurpose Room. The program will include presentations by Lois Berlin, Superintendent of Falls Church City Schools, Kieran Sharpe, our School Board liaison, and Donna Englander, Executive Director of the Falls Church Education Foundation. For more information on the Falls Church Education Foundation, see page 3.

Throughout the year, we are planning exciting and informative programs and fun activities for families, as well as supporting the staff at our schools. We'd love your help! We have several committee chair positions still open, and we especially invite our new families to join our PTA and get involved. We are seeking volunteers for the following

Mark Your Calendars

- Sept. 10 — PTA Committee Chair Meeting, Lee Graham, 7:15 pm
- Sept. 15 — Volunteer forms due
- Sept. 20 — PTA Meeting in MD Multipurpose Room, 7:00
- Sept. 22 — Wrapping paper forms and money due
- Sept. 28 — TJ Back to School Night, 7:30 pm
- Oct. 4 — TJ Principal's Coffee, 8:45 am
- Oct. 5 — MD Back to School Night, 7:00
- Oct. 13 — Family Movie Night in MEH Cafetorium
- Oct. 23-27 — TJ Book Fair



For a full 2006-07 PTA calendar, go to <http://www.fallschurchpta.org/pta-calendar.html>

positions: Mount Daniel Art Show Chair, TJ Book Fair Co-Chair, Recycling Coordinator, and a Chairperson for a great new fundraiser we plan to try this year, Java Joe's Coffee sales. In addition to these positions, our Spring Fling Chair, Beth West, would love a few additional parents to help out. Please call or e-mail me at kathleen-donovan@cox.net or 571-338-3774 if you can help out. See our calendar above for upcoming events we hope you'll join us for, and I look forward to seeing all of you at our first PTA Meeting on Wednesday, September 20th, and at our Back to School nights!

As we prepare along with our children for the new school year, may we each share some of their excitement ... research shows that whether it's reading a book or talking with our children about school, volunteering at school or serving on PTA committees, our involvement makes a difference. So, let's all join our staff at TJ and Mount Daniel, and have a wonderful journey with our children this year!

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.

— Rachel Carson

