

Fairfield Magnet



PTA Newsletter

**Fairfield Elementary Magnet PTA
2011-2012**

Executive Officers

- President — Staci Zeagler
- 1st VP/Membership — Allison Manning
- Co-Chair — Laura Weego
- 2nd VP/Fundraising — Melanie Peacock
- 3rd VP/Hospitality — Amy Randall
- Recording Secretary — Laura Gooszen
- Treasurer — Micheal Collins

Board Members/Committee Chairs

- Room Mother Coordinator — Stephanie Taylor
- February Fling — DeAnna Collins
- Co-Chair—Sarah Gleason
- Auction — Emily Hobson and Meb Tujague
- Field Day — Lacey McCollum
- Carnival — Angela Waltman
- Yearbook — Heather Berry
- Co-Chair— Laura Grieder
- 5th Grade Coordinator — Karen Payne
- Co-Chair—Sukie Perkins
- Faculty/Staff/Teacher Appreciation (TAP) —
Joanne Black
- Co-Chairs—Candy Kemper & Sharon Leethy
- PTA Contests — Lisa Turnbull
- Co-Chair—Natalie Howell
- Grandparents' Day — Amy Moushon and
Angela Watson
- Spirit Wear — Tammy Tisdale
- Co-Chair—Stephanie Easterling
- ArtBreak — Dorothy Shemwell
- Building & Grounds — Jennifer Hemmings and
Arcadio Miranda
- Library — Lori Edmonson
- Co-Chair—Mary Richter
- Teacher Representatives—Stefanie Farris
and T.J. Kelly

Contact Information available at
www.fairfieldmagnet.org



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Volume 8, Issue 3

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FAIRFIELD MEMORIES...

One of my favorite things about Fairfield is gathering at the flag pole for the pledge every year on Field Day. —Dorothy Shemwell

CARNIVAL FUN FOR ALL! The 2011 Fairfield Fall Carnival was held on November 5. We had great weather and everyone had a really good time. The carnival would not be possible without all the volunteers. Belated thank you to Robert and Deborah LeMere who worked the entire four hours of the carnival in the cafeteria. Brian Wilson of the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office provided security. Dan Gubucci of Super One Foods provided hotdogs. Trey May of Choice Copy Service provided many signs, posters and printed whatever was needed. Emily Bottrell cheerfully organized all armband purchases. It was fun to overhear the volunteers from Caddo Middle Magnet and Byrd High School commenting on their experiences from their Fairfield days. If you have any suggestions of ways to improve the carnival for next year, please let me know by email, anglawaltman@gmail.com.

Brenda Blue dressed up like a clown for the first carnival, complete with make-up and clown shoes.

—Karen Payne

We had a petting zoo and pony rides at the Fall Carnival under the shade trees out in the front of the school. The lines were so long all day I didn't think all the kids would get to ride! But the people who brought the animals stayed longer than expected and everyone was thrilled. What a great day! —Tammy Beardsley



Principal's Corner



Happy New Year to all!

With the holidays behind us we look forward to a busy second semester. Your help with timely arrivals to school and good attendance will help us assure that everyone is experiencing optimal learning.

High stakes testing for 3rd – 5th graders is also on our minds and approaching fast and the 12th & 13th and 15th & 16th of April will be here before we know it. Please keep these dates in mind as you schedule appointments.

Thanks for the support and please continue your efforts to facilitate homework and good work habits, and we will continue to offer top notch instruction to assure a win-win situation.

Thanks to the many volunteers we see daily, and please accept our invitation to visit and participate in the life of our school.

Mrs. B

I remember when my fourth grader Alivia was in her first week of kindergarten. I got a phone call one afternoon from Mrs. B saying, "Mom everything is ok, but you might want to come check on Alivia, she fell on playground and bit through her tongue." I drop everything at work rushed to the school, rounded the office corner to find Mrs. B rocking my baby kindergartner consoling her. Where do you find this compassion? Where do you find a principal who takes this time for her students? I knew then I made the right decision for my daughters education. —Kathy Deen



Thanks for the memories!

2011 has flown by and here we are in 2012. The holidays make me so sentimental. As my youngest child gets older and closer to leaving elementary school, I get even more so. As a tribute to Fairfield Magnet and how it began, some of the PTA founders and I have put together a history to share with you on pages four and five of this newsletter. Also, as an added bonus, I asked you to send me "memories" of your days at Fairfield. You'll find these throughout the newsletter.

Hearing them brought back many memories for me and taught me some things that I never would have known. I hope you enjoy...

If you haven't been in the auditorium lately, you should take a look. Thanks to Lee Pritchard, grandfather of Jalee (4th) and Sadie (K) the sound booth in the back corner has been completed. The electrical work that was needed has also been done. We are in the process of ordering new sound system equipment. Our hope is to have everything installed in time for all the end of the year programs.

We still have not met our goal of 500 members in the PTA. 100% of the faculty and staff have joined. There are about 430 students, so we should be able to meet that goal easily. Please use the form in this newsletter to join if you haven't already.

Please join me in thanking Angela Waltman and her committee who made our carnival such a wonderful day! The weather couldn't have been better and the children couldn't have had more fun. Also, I would like to thank all of you parents who are participating in our events. We have wonderful opportunities for our Fairfield students and families to socialize and bond over good food and fun. I am truly grateful to start another year with my Fairfield family—

Staci Zeagler, President

I remember when the fundraiser was so successful that our beloved principal allowed herself to be creamed with pie! Or was it shaving cream? —Olivia Zepeda

...the show choir went to Lake Charles and won first place.

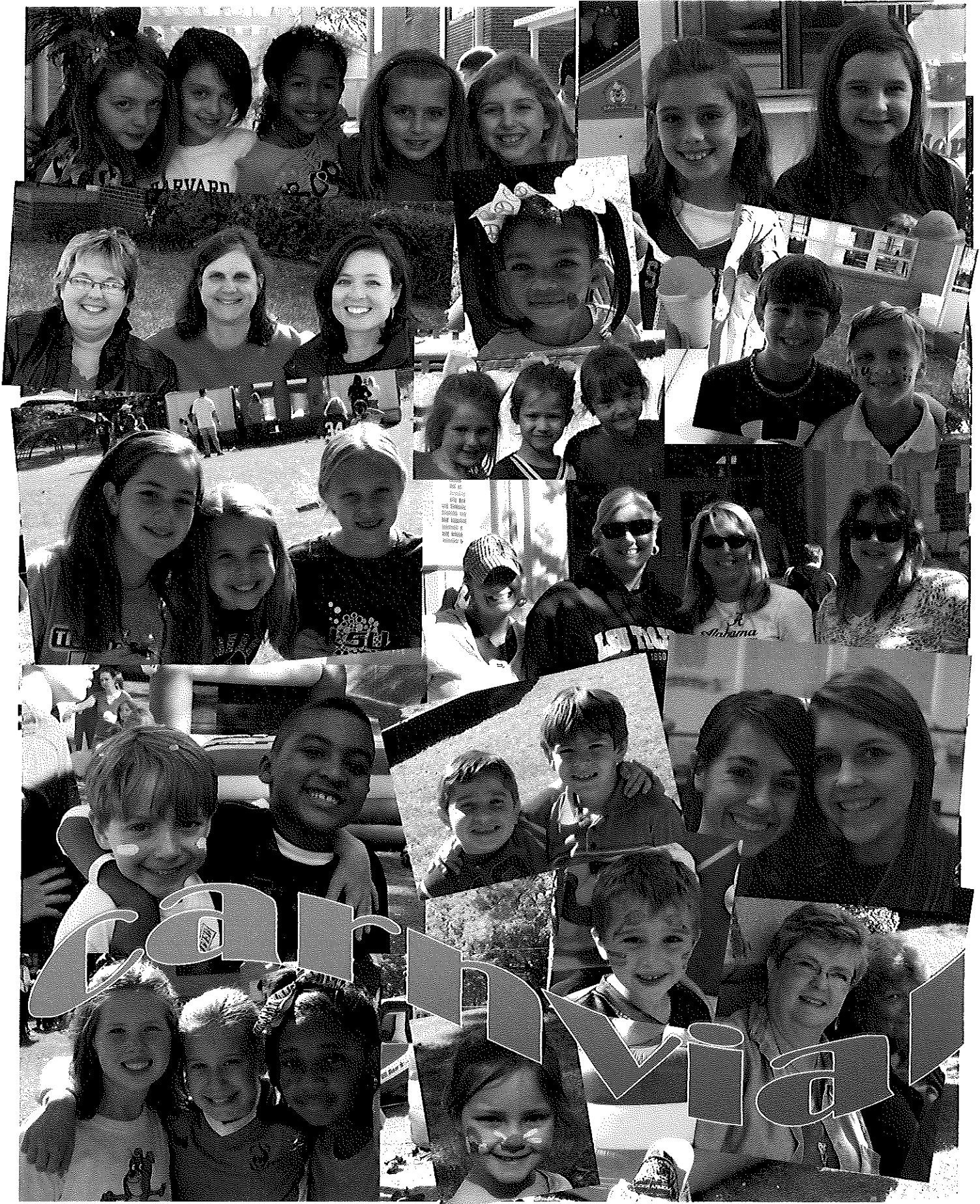
—Adam Wilson

...we had rats for pets in Mrs. Guy's room and took them home on holidays. —Hannah Wilson

...I was doing carpool one day and a grandparent thought I was a student and asked me who my teacher was. I was a 2nd year teacher then. —Mrs. Allen

...1st grade classes were held in T buildings. —the Leethys

...Kernel the corn snake was our class pet in Mrs. Jagot's class. —Allison Payne



PIECES OF HISTORY: FAIRFIELD MAGNET AND FEM PTA (2001 – PRESENT)

Fairfield Elementary School began in 1923 as Cedar Grove Public School. It served as a neighborhood school for 78 years before becoming a magnet school in 2001. After years of performance numbers that were unacceptable, the school board had decided to integrate students from outside the district to create Fairfield Elementary Magnet School.

Summer 2001 - A Watermelon Social was held that summer at the school for recruiting purposes. Most of the parents who came to the social had children in 1st or 2nd grade at other schools and siblings coming into kindergarten. Most of the older children were on waiting lists for other magnet schools. Families were interested in the opportunity to place their children in a smaller more controlled magnet school rather than have them in larger neighborhood schools. The watermelon social was fun; the children got sticky and messy and enjoyed the front yard.

We remember when there was a giant oak tree shading the front playground.. —the Leethys

Unlike past magnet school implementation, it had been decided to phase out neighborhood students who did not test into the magnet program one grade per year instead of immediately sending all neighborhood students to other districts. There was one magnet class per grade and the others were neighborhood children, except for kindergarten which was entirely magnet. Current teachers and staff that have been here since before Fairfield Magnet are Diane Taylor (she was Miss Douglas then), Nicole Allen (her 1st year to teach), Rachel Guy, Jennifer Schaff (she was Miss Wells then and taught 1st grade), Emily Parker (was Miss Tolbert then), Brenda Blue, Marylyn Cahn, Sherrie Gaddie, TJ Kelly, Rebecca Kinmon, Sharon James, Patricia Fulgham and LD Adams. The principal at that time was Dr. Deborah Brown.

Fall 2001 - The ENTIRE interior of the school was bright blue, two tones, one above the chair rail, one below (check out the evidence where there's peeling paint). This was fresh paint applied in anticipation of the new students and families that were arriving. The building did not have air conditioning. The play equipment on the front playground was the same until last summer when the new equipment was installed and two old pieces were removed. There was no kindergarten wing, there was no library building, there were no covered walkways, nor a covering at the carpool exit. The parking lot was 1/3 its current size. There were more temporary buildings in the back where the current ones remain. The library was where Mrs. Patton's gateway class is now held, and the backyard was a big empty field, no track, no equipment, no tables, but plenty of weeds and ant hills.

The Caddo District PTA sent representatives out to help get a PTA organized. There had been a PTA, but never a Fairfield Magnet PTA. At one of our earliest PTA meetings, we needed to elect a new president. Karen Payne (still at Fairfield with her youngest child, Gracie) volunteered for the job. PTA consisted of executive board members that also served as committee chairs, room mothers and helped with all activities. Uniforms were baby blue or light yellow shirts with khaki pants or skirts. Finding spirit wear items such as sweatshirts or jackets was virtually impossible. Finally, some acceptable sweatshirts were found at WalMart. There was no money

in the PTA bank account. All spirit wear items had to be pre-ordered and pre-paid. The PTA purchased them and had the Fairfield logo added. PTA started collecting box tops and labels for education. That money and membership dues were all the funds that were became available. Executive board members, teachers and staff worked at carnival and field day booths. The first carnival consisted of a membership table and a spirit wear table. Mrs. Blue dressed as a clown giving away balloons. There were some homemade yard games, such as ring toss and face painting, and a food tent.

Mid-Year 2001 - Dr. Brown is replaced by Mr. Keith Burton, a teacher from South Highlands Magnet School. One of the first things Mr. Burton did was change uniform tops to navy and white, change the logo, and add the plaid as an option for the girls. He also had the interior of the school painted to its current cream color. Plans got started for the new Kindergarten/1st Grade wing.

I remember the really BLUE walls and the auditorium BEFORE it had air conditioning. —Ginger Broussard

Fall 2002 - New teachers and new families were at Fairfield to start the 2nd year as a magnet school. The parking lot had been expanded over the summer and the parish promised air-conditioning soon! This year the carnival got bigger. It rained that day, so it moved inside. There was also a huge breakout of the flu in kindergarten which hampered the day. This was the year the confetti eggs were introduced along with some inflatables and the cake walk.

Mid-Year 2002 - Keith Burton had applied for the Principal position that was available at South Highlands Magnet and received that appointment. This was very traumatic for parents, faculty and students. Fairfield would have three principals in less than a year. The school board's plan was to hire the curriculum coordinator to serve as interim principal for the remainder of the school year and hire a permanent principal the following school year. Many Fairfield parents attended the next school board meeting to oppose that plan. Three parent representatives stood and spoke on behalf of Fairfield to state the case that a permanent principal should be hired instead of having an interim principal. Parents and teachers were invested and highly committed to Fairfield. They wanted stability. Karen Payne was PTA President for the second year and brought the newly received test scores to the meeting which showed huge improvement in school performance. The school board agreed to hire a permanent principal, and Mrs. Barberousse was welcomed with open arms. The first PTA sponsored "Sweetheart Dance" was held soon after her arrival. It was held in the cafeteria. All the children were dressed in their finery. Polaroid photos were taken and sold for \$2.00. All of the teachers were there as well. The children danced with their parents, teachers and each other and had a wonderful time! Anyone who bought a ticket to attend the dance, automatically became a member of the PTA.

Keith Burton was leaving to go to South Highlands and Mrs. B. came to his last PTA meeting at Fairfield to be introduced - she assured Keith she would be working to make 'THIS' (Fairfield) the number one school in the state. She received thunderous applause!! —Karen Payne

2003 - 2006 - In 2003, it became clear that the dance had outgrown the school. It was simply too crowded. The next two years, 2004 and 2005, saw the dance at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, followed by a year, 2006, at Grace Community. This was also the year of the first auction. It was held in the halls of the school. So that children would want to come to the auction, it was decided to have a "sock-hop" in the cafeteria for the children while the parents perused the auction. The PTA board and children were all dressed in 50's garb and had a grand ole time in the cafeteria while the rest of the parents had time to shop. Once again fun was had by all! In 2005, the new Kindergarten/1st Grade wing was built. The first students in those classrooms are now in 7th grade. By the 2005-2006 school year, the school's reputation, sense of pride, and PTA membership had grown by leaps and bounds. That year, there was 100% membership from both the faculty and the parents for the first time. Fairfield also won the grandparents' membership award along with several other awards at the end of the year PTA assembly. It was remarkable to be called to the stage over and over again after struggling to get off the ground.

2007 to present - The PTA added numerous events and committee chairpeople. The carnival has grown to include many, many inflatables while still staying true to the early days with the cake walk and confetti eggs. The auction and dance have remained off campus due to the need for a bigger facility. The PTA can now afford to pay for teachers' hotel expenses so that they can attend educational conferences, and they award teacher grants each year to provide needed and wanted items to classrooms. The talents of our students are being recognized locally and nationally in PTA contests. In 2007, the PTA purchased and installed playground equipment for the back of the school. In 2008, the new library was built and the running track was added. Also that year, PTA paid to have electrical outlets added to the cafeteria and to have all the outdoor walkways covered with awnings. In 2009, our school was awarded the 5 star rating which confirms that Fairfield is one of the best elementary schools in the state. In 2010, the PTA used \$33,000 to purchase technological equipment (Smartboards, document cameras, etc.) for the classrooms. In 2011, the PTA purchased and installed new playground equipment for the front playground. One area of marked improvement over the years has been the school buildings and grounds. Flower beds, crepe myrtle trees, and hydrangeas adorn our lawns. In 2012, the sound system in the auditorium will be completely renovated. Where there is a need for improvement at the school, a volunteer steps up and takes the helm to get things done. The school now has cheerleaders, sports teams, boy scouts, girl scouts, and many, many more opportunities for extracurricular activities with their schoolmates.

I remember when the entire school was gathered on the front lawn to witness Mr. Farris climb the ladder and put the 5th star on our school. What a proud moment! —Staci Zeagler

Although it takes money to make the purchases to do the physical improvements, there's a lot more to Fairfield and its' PTA. Both are highly successful and highly respected in our parish and state. The children who started Fairfield Magnet in 2001 have grown up and are in high school and college. There were struggles and triumphs endured while building this school. This school and this PTA are not just about attending school and fundraising. We are about building a community where everyone can take part and everyone can succeed.

As the last of the parents who were on the original PTA board leave Fairfield, their wish for you (parents, faculty, PTA board and members) is to continue in the spirit in which it began. Remember that if everyone does a small part no one will have to carry too large a load. Your children will be at Fairfield longer than they will be in any other single educational institution, they will receive a strong, lifelong foundation for learning. Fairfield is a precious place that will provide you many warm memories. It is the hope of those that have gone before you that you will remember our history and be responsible enough to participate in its continued success.

Written by Karen Payne - Allison (2005), James Richard(2009), Gracie (2012); Shannon Wyche - Jonathan (2005); Michelle Glick - Sadie (2003), Keegan (2005), Hallie (2007); Sukie Perkins - Grayson (2005), Quincy (2007), Logan (2009), McHutchin (2012); Staci Zeagler - Olivia (2010), Reed (2013)

I had a daughter start there the second year Fairfield was a magnet school. I was new in Shreveport and had not heard of it until Mrs. Blue called and gave us a personal tour. We immediately fell in love with the school and have been there ever since. That daughter is now at magnet high school in the tenth grade, and I have a 2nd grader at FEM now and one more coming up to kindergarten next year! Never been happier to send my kids to school knowing they will be well educated! I remember each star going up on the building and so proud to call it our school. —Charris Glass

I remember when I moved here a few years ago EVERYONE at FEM was very friendly and made me feel welcome to the great "Fairfield family". —Tammy Tisdale

I remember when I boo who'd at the first Boo-Who party I went to. (PTA Tears and Cheers Breakfast) —Susan Parker

I remember our first field day with Mrs. Bergeret as P.E. director. The kids had a great time with fun music playing over the speakers -but not as much fun as their teachers (at the time) Mrs. Allien and Mrs. Horton.. They were both shakin' some tail feathers and really getting into the spirit of the day! —Anonymous

I remember when we bought and donated Fairfield's first Christmas tree and then decorated it! It still stands proudly in the hallway. —Deb LeMere

I remember when we carried, sorted and delivered \$50,000 worth of cookie dough. —Sharon Leethy

I remember when our sports teams were never all Fairfield kids. We had to join teams from other schools. —Karen Payne

Fairfield Magnet PTA Membership

of Members _____ @ \$6.00 each, Parent PTA Membership = \$ _____
 # of Members _____ @ \$5.00 each, Grandparent PTA Membership = \$ _____
 # of Members _____ @ \$5.00 each, Friend or Neighbor PTA Membership
 Total Enclosed: _____ Cash _____ Check # _____
 Name _____ Child's Name _____

Teacher/Grade _____ THANK YOU!

MEMBERSHIP STILL MATTERS

It is not too late to join the Fairfield PTA! Our goal is 100% family enrollment which means every parent, step-parent, and grandparent. We are striving for 500 members. We need ALL families to join our PTA to reach our goal. Your \$6 paid membership includes a free student directory (limited to one per household). The directories are a wonderful resource to easily find addresses, emails, and numbers of fellow classmates. Please take a few minutes to complete the membership form above and return it to the school office to Allison Manning.

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Grandparents' Day
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3rd-5th grades

February 24th, 8:30-10:30am

PTA Meeting

February 28th

6:00pm

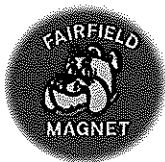
Fairfield Auditorium

Don't forget the Box Tops!

Due the first Friday of each month.

This month, PTA deposited
\$2,033. 80 from Box Tops for Education. It is well worth your time to collect the Box Tops, Campbell's soup labels, Tyson tear strips, and Community Coffee labels.

Please ask your grandparents, friends, and co-workers to collect for you as well. This year, PTA will use this money to supplement the Teacher Travel account so that our teachers can attend educational conferences.



Spirit Apparel!

FAIRFIELD ELEMENTARY MAGNET

The online Spirit Wear Store is up and running smoothly. Thanks to all of you who have already ordered! If you haven't seen our new items that are only available online, go to the Spirit Wear Store link on the Tuesday Talk page of the Fairfield website. We have short sleeve polos, hoodies, tote bags, backpacks, and more, with two logo options. Check it out!!!

Questions? Contact Tammy Tisdale at ttisdale@comcast.net.

CONTESTS

What wonderful participation we have had in the PTA contests this year!! Thank you to all students who have entered their work! It was so difficult to judge these fabulous entries, and we had several ties. Please take time to view our Reflections Contest winners posted on the bulletin board in the hall across from the office. We will soon have our 83 Safety Poster contest entries displayed as well. We will be honoring our winners at a PTA meeting soon.

Lisa Turnbull

Reflections Contest Winners

Photography

Primary: 1st Sai Kanchan Javalkar
2nd Brooke Ellen Turnbull

Intermediate: 1st Olivia Zepeda

Visual Arts

Primary:

1st Sai Kanchan Javalkar
2nd Brooke Ellen Turnbull
3rd Kaitlyn LeMere

Intermediate:

1st Analeigh Millican
2nd Madeline McCollum
3rd Bryanna Turnbull

Prose

1st Olivia Zepeda
2nd Kamryn Hannigan
3rd Shea Shockley
Runner Up: Rathika Pothi
Runner Up: Anna Claire Taylor

Poetry

1st Rachel Holeman
1st Hannah Hobson
2nd Katherine Howell
3rd Lydia Clark
Runner Up: Mallory Tucker
Runner Up: Regan Geldmacher
Runner Up: Merritt Shemwell

Music

Primary: 1st Ben Muslow
Intermediate: 1st Hannah Hobson

Safety Contest Winners

1st Andrew Black
2nd Rebecca Mallory
3rd Sai Kanchan Javalkar

CONGRATULATIONS!

Fundraising FUN!

It's about that time of year when we all start to run out of our cookie dough and wish we had purchased just a couple (or ten!) more tubs...! Keep that in mind next fall, or if you just need more NOW, please contact me. There are a few tubs left for sale at \$16 each. They will go quickly, so act fast. Thanks to all of you who supported our PTA fundraiser in the fall, the PTA will be able to gift more than \$20,000 back to the school! We have already started work on our sound system upgrades in the auditorium and are in the process of evaluating other needs of our teachers and students. You can continue to support the fundraiser when you subscribe to or renew magazines. Log on to www.QSP.com for any magazine subscriptions you might like to have. Click on "Shop" and then enter Fairfield's School Organization number - 1075456.

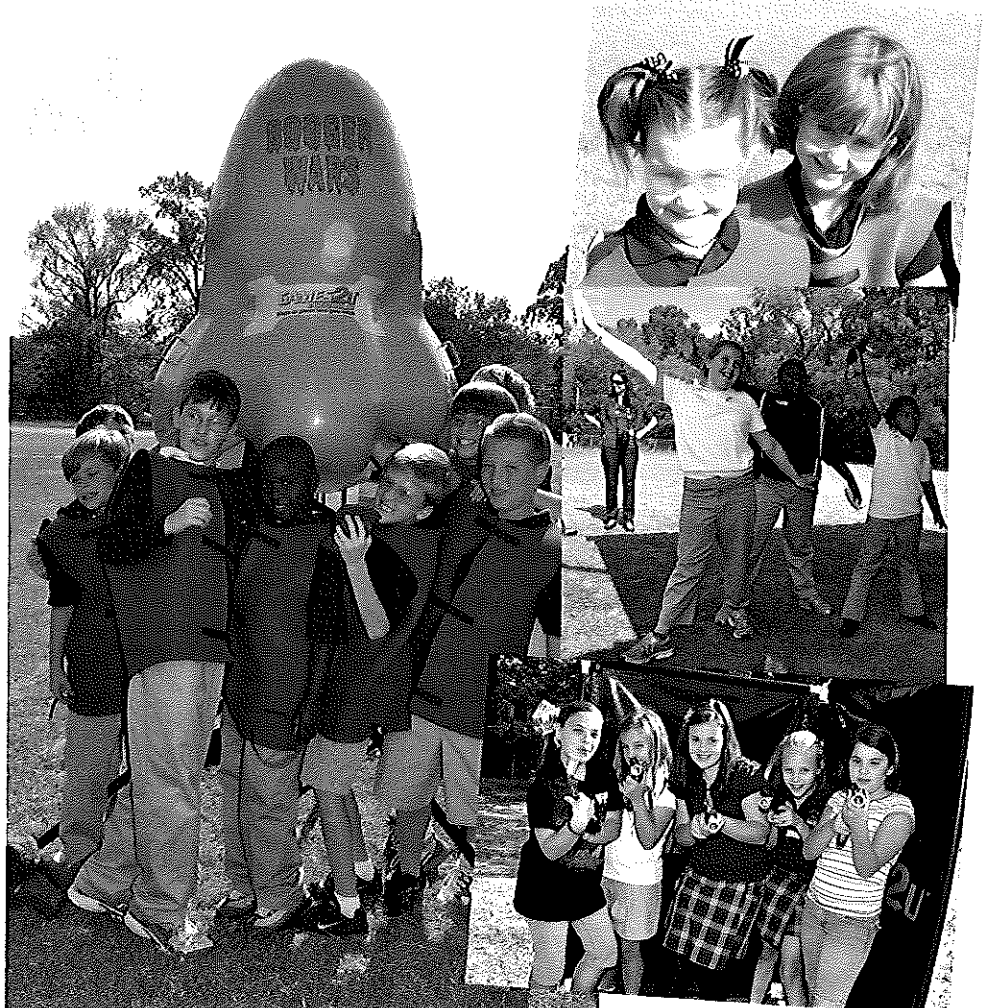
To celebrate our fundraiser success, children selling 20 units or more were invited to participate in the Fairfield Fun Day. The weather could not have been more perfect

and a great time was had by all. Games 2 U brought their mobile gaming van to our back playground and we played video games, booger wars and lazer tag. Eighty students participated in this event and as evidenced by the pictures had a great time. We very much appreciate all of your hard work to achieve the 20+ unit goal.

In other fundraising news, our Spirit Nights have been very well attended. Our November Chick-fil-A night earned \$222 and our December AcroSports night earned \$224. Take a night off from cooking and join us for our January Spirit Night at El Chico's on Tuesday, January 24th. It's always nice for the children (and parents) to enjoy some time together outside of school and help us raise a little easy money for the school as well. Thank you for supporting our wonderful school either via the fundraiser or spirit nights. YOU are appreciated.

Anyone wishing to purchase cookie dough please text or call me for the current selection at 518-5334. They'll be gone soon, so act quickly!

Thanks for putting the FUN in FUNdrasing!
Melanie Peacock, Fundraising VP



Dates to remember

- Jan. 11— End of 9 weeks Celebration Lunch for Faculty and Staff
Jan. 13 & 16— No School
Jan. 19— Social Studies Fair Viewing, 4:30 to 6:30
Jan. 24— El Chico Spirit Night, 5:00 to 8:00
Jan. 26— Science Fair Viewing, 4:30 to 6:30
Feb. 14th— Valentine's Day T-shirts and Jeans
Feb. 20th— No School
Feb. 24th— Grandparents' Day, 3rd—5th grades
Book Fair Begins (ends Mar. 2nd)
Feb. 28th— PTA General Meeting, 6:00



PTA Online

Fairfield PTA
www.fairfieldmagnet.org

Caddo District PTA
www.caddodistrictpta.org

Louisiana PTA
www.louisianapta.org

National PTA
www.pta.org



PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]



I remember when there were a billion books crammed into that little room we called a library. —the Leethys (That room is now Mrs. Patton's Gateway classroom.)



...when the Discoveries room was practically a closet. —Brittany Shankle



...all the little girls (& 1/2 their mamas) had a crush on Monsieur Sebastian, the French teacher who rode a red motorcycle. —Karen Payne



The Silent Auction Committee is now accepting donations.

Please contact Emily Hobson
(ehobson720@comcast.net) or

Meb Tujague (meb66@hotmail.com)

if you, or someone you know, would like to make a donation. We will once again have class projects and baskets as well as one of a kind items such as reserved seating to Fairfield events and the coveted carpool fastpasses.

No item is too big or too small.

Thank you in advance for your support!
Emily and Meb



Save the Date!

**SPRING
FLING**

Saturday, March 17th
6:00 to 9:00 pm

**Dancing, Contests, and
Auction Items!**

Family fun for everyone!