

Issue #1

Winter Edition



FORDS MIDDLE SCHOOL, WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Falcon Press

PBSIS KICKOFF

By Courtney Riofrio, Matt Santiago, and
Jabriya Bundy

The school year of 2011-2012 brought a tremendous beginning to the students of Fords Middle School. The first of our four days consisted of lessons to remind us of our four expectations, to be respectful, prepared, successful, and safe.

The homerooms also challenged each other with a door decorating contest, as well as crafting hands to connect all of the students together. We then had each person make their own tie-dyed shirts to wear at the kick-off celebration.

The students arrived on Friday with FMS swarming in a sea of tie-dyed shirts. In the afternoon, the rooms started vibrating with the

sounds of instruments. It was the Woodbridge High School marching band, followed by the Step Team. As they marched on by, students assembled into the cafeteria and gym.

The festivities started with speeches from the superintendent, Dr Crowe, and by our principal, Mr Lottmann. The kickoff continued with the Feather Drop game and the Minute to Win It finals. Joining Mr

Taber and Mrs Ogonowski was the new addition to our family, the Fords Falcon mascot. Mr Sikora ended the celebration DJing various types of music in the middle of the hallways! Fun was had by all!



Hello Students!

by Courtney Riofrio

Welcome to the new year of 2011 at Fords Middle School. To the new sixth graders, we welcome you with a big smile, and we hope you like it here at Fords Middle School. Teachers have been filling your head with all this PBSIS things correct? And what is this you ask?

If you don't know about this program, I would be more than glad to update you. PBSIS is a program that the federal government put together to encourage students to achieve high academic success and improve your behavior for the present and future. Feather collecting is the goal, and when you're caught doing something positive, you are rewarded with a falcon feather.

We have the wheel as you know,

which is located in the lunch room, and random feathers are selected to give students a chance to spin for some great prizes. You better start stacking up on those feathers if you aren't already! Not only do we have the monthly and weekly prizes, but we also have the end of the year prize that is the best prize of all.

So... COLLECT, COLLECT, COLLECT, all the feathers you can and plop them right into that big blue box! Make sure you participate in our fundraisers because the money goes right back to you! In addition to that, check out the school store, we have a good variation of cool things you may purchase with feathers or money.

Punchball Kickball Club

By Sowmya Srinivasan



Boom! The kickball soars through the air scoring a home-run. We run past our bases, each person adding points. These are some of the things you can expect in this exciting club.

This club is open to all 8th graders, and it is a great deal of fun... it's our punchball kickball club!!!

The club is run by Mr. Hartenstein, Thursday mornings at 7 AM. I know that may sound early, but it's worth it. For one whole hour all of the people get mesmerized into the sport to make their team win. It also helps the people get exer-

cise right now who miss gym because of block scheduling.

The rules are really simple, you could either punch the ball or you can kick it. There are four bases you have to get on, to be able to go back and kick again, someone has to score a homerun sending everybody back to home, or it would have to be your turn to kick.

Since we don't have a large amount of people playing, we have to keep going back to home, but in gym you have a lot of people, so we are hoping after this article many more people would like to join.

Remember that doors open at 6:45 and we usually start at 7. If you want to get out of the morning crankiness, come and join us. It's worth it!!

The Sound of Music: Orchestra

By Francesca Garison

Music is not just sounds; it is a way of life. Whether you are singing, playing in a band or orchestra, or just listening to music, the sounds together put you through many different emotions. Many students, teachers, and people in general take music for granted. Can you imagine life without music? This wondrous sound has to be made in some way, so why don't you put your effort into making enjoyable music by playing in the Fords Middle School orchestra.

Many students are not aware of the Orchestra Club. The club entails string instruments including violins, cellos, and a bass playing different songs trying to create a mood throughout our audience.

If you are interested, speak to Mrs. Novak in room 31. We have rehearsal every Wednesday after school until 4 P.M. If you do play, you will have

the great joy of playing in our spring concert. For the concert, we will be showcasing pieces like, "New Moon," and "Roaches in the Pantry."

If you have any questions, our officers can assist you. Our President is Francesca Garison, and our Vice President is Katherine Pisarski. If you

don't play an instrument, come out and see us!



This year, Fords Middle School has started a Drama Club that meets Monday mornings at 7 AM. We have had a very pleasant turnout; over seventy students have de-



cidied to join us. At the first meeting, we decided that our production at the end of the school year will be *West Side Story* or specifically, a variation of it.

We hope that everyone at FMS will take part in the first

play in our school's history, whether it is acting, being part of stage crew, or just simply attending it at the end of the year.

If there are any questions, please contact Ms. Blasena (Room 40). We are open to suggestions and ideas as we would like to make the production memorable.

Movie Review: *Jack and Jill*

By William Lamberg

In the movie *Jack and Jill*, Adam Sandler plays both a successful commercial director as well as his eccentric twin sister. It is one of the funniest movies of the year, in my opinion. Jill is crazy, energetic and even bigger and stronger than her own twin brother. When she comes for her yearly Thanksgiving visit- it's trouble for Jack!

From the moment she arrives chaos erupts; whether it be jumping a jet ski out of a pool, crushing a miniature horse, or just getting lost in a parking lot. To Jack's discomfort, Jill ends up staying longer than expected; till New Years. When Jill goes to a basketball game

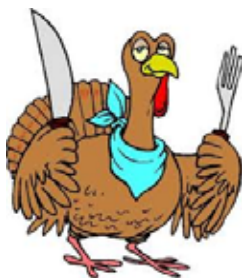


with Jack, who was really there to recruit Al Pacino for a commercial, Al Pacino falls in love with her. That's when things get really crazy (and Oscars get broken by golf balls flying through living rooms)! If you want to laugh out loud this season, go see *Jack and Jill*.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

By Courtney Riofrio

As you know the Thanksgiving holiday came and went. We still think about all the delicious, mouth watering



food that we devoured on that one day. Thanks to the students and staff at Fords Middle School, many other families had the opportunity to have a great Thanksgiving dinner! Much needed non-perishable items were brought in from students and

staff and baskets were made up and given to families in need! FMS cares!!!



Did You Know...

By Tahisha Pierre

- 11% of people are left handed.
- August has the highest percentage of births.
- The first letters of the months July through November spell JASON.
- If you try to say the alphabet without moving your lips or tongue every letter will sound the same.
- You burn more calories sleeping than watching TV.
- Einstein slept 10 hours a night.
- A crocodile can't move its tongue.



- Every day is a holiday somewhere in the world.
- It's physically impossible for pigs to look up at the sky.
- One in every 4 Americans have appeared on television.
- $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

- Women have a better sense of smell than men.
- The word "typewriter" is the longest word that can be typed using only the top row of a keyboard.
- You take over 23,000 breaths everyday
- 56% of typing is completed by your left hand.
- For every human there are 200 million insects.
- Everyone has a unique tongue print.
- Niagara Falls could fill 4,000 bathtubs every second.

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