



**RUN WITH THE FOX**

# Fogelsville Flash

**December  
2011**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### December 2

Movie Night! 6PM

### December 8

Chick-fil-A Night, 4-8PM

### December 13

5th Grade Band, String &  
Chorus Concert 1:30 & 7:30

### December 14

PTO Meeting 7:00 pm

### December 23

Early Dismissal

### December 27

Salad Works 5—7:30 pm

### December 24 - Jan 1st

No School



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### January 11

PTO Meeting 7PM

### January 12

Chick-fil-A Night, 4-8PM

### January 13

Movie Night!

### January 16

No School

### January 27

Early Dismissal  
Family Fitness Night

## A Message from our Principal

Dear Fogelsville Families,

Thank you all for your generous donations to our "Giving Tree". You helped to bring a little bit of hope and happiness to some families. Our coin drive for Pediatric Cancer was also a success. Please continue to keep the Lilley family in your thoughts and prayers as Porter continues to battle leukemia. His family has been extremely grateful of the support from so many of you.

I hope you all enjoy the winter break with family and friends. May the joy of the season touch your households!

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Brenda DeRenzo  
Principal



## A Note from our PTO President

HAPPY DECEMBER FOGELSVILLE FAMILIES!

I hope everyone had a fabulous Thanksgiving weekend! The weather was great to be traveling or enjoying the outdoors! Maybe now the cold weather and snow will come?! Enjoy what ever you like best! :)

Time is certainly flying by at Fogelsville this year! Soon we will be ringing in a New Year and the PTO would like to start your year off right by reminding you to stay in shape and eat healthy! **Mark your calendar for Friday, January 27th** as we come together for a Fun Family Fitness Night! It will certainly be an exciting time for all! (Don't forget about Movie Night as well on Friday, January 13th!)

Wishing you all a very Happy Holiday Season!

~Theresa Heller

## Fogelsville PTO Board

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## CALLING ALL PARENTS! CALLING ALL PARENTS!

The Yearbook committee needs your help! In order for us to have a great yearbook, we would like anyone who has pictures of their son or daughter and their classmates, to contribute to the yearbook. Pictures can be of special occasions or everyday classroom activities. A website has been set-up so that anyone with pictures may upload them for the yearbook staff to see and possibly use in the yearbook. The more pictures we have to choose from the better! Please be sure to add the grade and teacher's name for your photos.

Please log on to the Fogelsville website for instructions on how and where to upload your photos.



Thanks for your help! Any questions contact Amy Feyrer at afeyer@ptd.net.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| <u>Kindergarten</u> | <u>1st Grade</u> | <u>2nd Grade</u> | <u>3rd Grade</u> | <u>4th Grade</u> | <u>5th Grade</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Michael G.          | Colm G.          | David B.         | Haley B.         | Sean C.          | Meghan B.        |
| Anais L.            | Divjot G.        | Annelise B.      | Logan L.         | Joshua M.        | Kelly D.         |
| Ian R.              | Gianna M.        | Tabatha E.       | Skylar M.        | Vanessa R.       | Dylan G.         |
| Thomas G.           | Nicole M.        | Olivia G.        | Zachary M.       | Jessica T.       | Nehali G.        |
| Beau P.             |                  | Andrew K.        | Alexia N.        | Alan U.          | Caroline P.      |
|                     |                  | Joshua L.        | Justin R.        |                  | John P.          |
|                     |                  | Logan O.         | Zachary R.       |                  |                  |
|                     |                  | Kacper P.        |                  |                  |                  |
|                     |                  | Dayne W.         |                  |                  |                  |



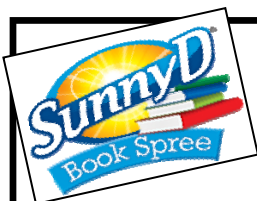
# Fogelsville Fundraising

**Congratulations to Mrs. Castro's PM Kindergarten class for designating the most Giant Bonus Cards for the brand new Giant A+ Rewards program. For their efforts they have earned a party for their class.**



Many thanks to all families who have designated their Giant Bonus Cards for the Giant A+ Rewards Program. Each time you shop at Giant Food Stores you will be earning free money for our school. You can continue to designate your bonus cards by going to [www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus/](http://www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus/). Earn Double and Triple points by looking for the doubling and tripling points tags when you shop at Giant! Questions? Contact Cindy Cook at [cacook01@verizon.net](mailto:cacook01@verizon.net).

Cindy Cook, VP Fundraising and the Fogelsville PTO



**Thanks to everyone who has submitted SunnyD UPC labels!**

Congratulations to Mrs. Stoudt, Mrs. Castro, Ms. Casey, Mrs. Bolick and Ms. Trumbauer. They will each receive 20 free books for their classrooms.

We will continue to collect SunnyD product labels throughout the year. *If each student submits just one label we will have enough to get books for all of our classrooms.* All labels are to be put in the gold PTO mailbox in the school lobby. Contact Cindy Cook at [cacook01@verizon.net](mailto:cacook01@verizon.net) with any questions.



Just a reminder to be clipping and sending in your **Campbell's Labels for Education Labels.**

**Our fall contest ends on December 9<sup>th</sup>.**

The class that submits the most labels will win a pizza party!!

Simply clip the UPC labels from the eligible products and send them in an envelope or zip lock bag marked with your child's name and their teacher's name. All labels can be placed in the PTO mailbox in the main lobby of the school. Please send them in by Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Remember, all of the UPC labels collected are turned in for toys and equipment for the children to use on the playground at recess.

Thanks for your support! Tina Zaun



## SCRIP GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all who participated in the SCRIP gift card program. We earned a profit of \$436 towards the student programs that the PTO sponsors.

## CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Holben's 1st Grade Class

for collecting the most Box Tops during the first contest! They collected 1,024 Box Tops...there were a few other classes really close to that as well! KEEP COLLECTING!



Have you been shopping at TARGET?



Are you signed up for the "Take Charge of Education" REWARDS program? It only takes a minute to sign up online and our school will benefit!

# Fogelsville Projects

## Giving Tree Update



I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! As many of you noticed, our Giving Tree was up and decorated for parent/teacher conferences last month. First I would like to thank the wonderful moms who helped to prepare the tags and to those moms who helped me "decorate" the tree with the tags before our last PTO meeting! It was a huge help for the success of our giving tree!

Also, just a reminder, we are collecting donations of personal care items for families at Jefferson Elementary. These items include things like toothbrushes, toothpaste, diapers, baby wipes, shampoo, conditioner and body wash. Additionally, the teachers at the school are in need of tissues and hand sanitizer for their classrooms. If you are able to help with any of those items, they will be appreciated as well!

**All donated items for Jefferson should be returned to the school no later than Friday, December 16th.**

Any questions can be directed to Amy Leibenguth at [amyleibenguth@aol.com](mailto:amyleibenguth@aol.com).  
THANK-YOU for all of your support of this event!

# Fogelsville Directory

As you know the Fogelsville Directory has been sent to each family in our school and hopefully you have been able to utilize it to contact friends for get togethers, maybe ask a question about homework or whatever the case may be. A big thank you to our Directory Committee who has spent many hours compiling and entering all our info. If you haven't already, please take a moment to be sure your info is correct.

**If there are any corrections to be made or if you are new to the school and didn't have the opportunity to submit your info, please fill out the form below and place in the gold PTO mailbox by Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.** An updated Directory Amendment Sheet will be sent home to attach it to your current directory for future reference. Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_ CORRECTIONS NEED TO BE MADE                      \_\_\_\_\_ NEW TO THE SCHOOL

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Address \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Ph# \_\_\_\_\_ Primary E mail \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Address \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Ph # \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Fogelsville Events

## “FOGELSVILLE ReStAURant DaYs”



### CHICK-FIL-A

Thursday, December 8th

4:00 pm-8:00 pm

Chick-fil-a donates prizes to the CLASSROOM that has the highest sales. So once you receive your receipt, PUT your CHILD’s GRADE and TEACHER’s NAME on the BACK of the RECEIPT and drop it in the box that is provided. 15% of the total sales will be donated to our school.

Congratulations to Miss Casey’s classroom for being the winning classroom for the month of November!

Each student received a pencil and a coupon for a free ice cream cone.



### SALAD WORKS

Tuesday, December 27th \* 5:00 pm—7:30 pm

Located on Cedar Crest Blvd, across from Target. Salad Works will donate 10% of all sales to our school. Nothing to fill out or hand in!

# School Store

## Come check out our December Holiday Smencils!

Smencils are sold individually or a 5-pack of assorted wintertime flavors is available for only \$5.00.

This item makes for a great stocking stuffer and is perfect for a secret exchange with classmates!

### SHOPPING DAYS REMINDER

Tuesday Mornings for Kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd Graders

Thursday Mornings for 3rd, 4th, & 5th Graders

Thursday Afternoons for PM Kindergarteners



### REMINDERS

Students must report to their classroom teacher before going to the School Store to shop.

Please do not send more than \$5 with your child each shopping visit.

Any questions or feedback, please contact Trish Balestrini 610-366-9656 or Tammy Blizzard 610-351-6111

Fogelsville Flash is edited by Theresa Heller and Jeni Siegfried.

Please send articles, announcements, letters, or comments by the 20th of each month to:  
sangy.rao@gmail.com



## Parents - Final Weeks of Fall Session: Will the House Vote on Vouchers, Charters?

### Overview:

With the Thanksgiving holiday now over, the General Assembly is set to return to Harrisburg on Monday (Dec. 5) for what could be a tumultuous final few weeks of session this fall. There are only six remaining voting session days scheduled for both the Senate and House (Dec. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14). In addition, the House has scheduled these additional days in December: Dec. 15, 19, 20. Republican members of the House will be meeting in caucus next week to discuss what pieces of legislation may be brought up for a vote, and the caucus' position on various bills.

The stakes are high with several critical issues that may be expected to be resolved before the end of the month, including reapportionment plans for Senate and House districts, Marcellus Shale tax and management issues, and privatization of state liquor stores. Added to that, of course, is the governor's push for an "education reform" plan that includes vouchers and expansion of charter school and Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) programs. Much can be done in that time if the will and the votes are there. If no agreement or action is taken on any of these issues, what are the prospects for these issues in 2012, a major election year? Many believe they will be much slimmer, so the urgency is greater now.

### What You Can Do Now and in the Coming Weeks:

PSBA remains actively involved with legislators and their staffs as discussions continue. As you know, the Senate passed **SB 1**, its voucher/charter school/EITC plan, on Oct. 26 and the bill is currently in the House Education Committee. The status of any discussions and decisions regarding voucher/charter school/EITC legislation is subject to constant change, and we will be providing you with the latest news from the Hill after next week's caucus meeting. In the meantime, it is important that House members continue to hear from you and all public school advocates. Voucher proponents, including those representing private, religious and parochial schools, are greatly intensifying their lobbying efforts now, so it's important that the voices in support of public education are heard.

Please contact your [House members](#) via a phone call or email to voice your concerns and to ask legislators to raise these questions with their leadership before SB 1 or ANY voucher/EITC/charter school bill goes to the floor for a vote. **You can contact your legislator right now by clicking on "Take Action" at the top right corner of this alert and you will find a letter prepared for your convenience.** After completing the address information required, the letter will automatically be sent from you to your House member.

In addition, [PSBA's website](#) includes various resources on [vouchers](#) as well as resources on [charter school issues](#) and [EITC issues](#) that you can use in your communications with your House member.

### Current Status:

**Vouchers** – No agreement has been reached in the House as possible plans are still being developed and vetted among members. If an agreement is reached, then legislation will be drafted for consideration. One idea being vetted is to replace the voucher plan under SB 1 as passed by the Senate for a scaled back plan that would reduce the number of eligible schools from the 144 proposed by the Senate to as few as 50. Further, the program would only be offered as a pilot that would expire in 3-5 years; the General Assembly would have to reauthorize it after that time if vouchers were to continue. However, that version of a voucher plan would be largely unacceptable to pro-voucher advocates, including Senate Education Chairman Jeff Piccola, who are still seeking the ultimate enactment of SB 1. Nevertheless, even a pilot plan may be better than nothing to some proponents -- and it sets the entitlement into law, making it easier to renew and expand it.

**EITC** -- Expansion of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program could slip by with little fanfare; and while it is viewed by some as a less contentious issue, it is also seen as a "backdoor route" to providing vouchers. The EITC provides tax credits to businesses that give funds to scholarship or educational improvement organizations and any expansion of the program is likely to be fashioned so that the majority of the funds will be directed to private schools as well as to charter and cyber charter schools. **Tell your legislators that prior to any expansion in the EITC tax credit program, concerns regarding financial, administrative and academic performance accountability of the EITC program should be addressed.**

**Charter Schools** – There is traction to move a charter school reform proposal, although it is unclear what the plan will include. The main proposals under consideration include SB 1, **HB 1348**, or a plan similar to what is now contained in HB 1348 with some modifications. (Here is **PSBA's summary** of the current version of HB 1348.) PSBA agrees that the current law governing charter schools should be reformed. Unfortunately, the proposals being discussed do not address the core concerns regarding charter schools that have been consistently raised for more than a decade including funding, oversight, fiscal transparency and academic accountability. In fact, these proposals could make some of those longstanding concerns worse.

Legislators continue to hear simplistic and inaccurate explanations related to the issues surrounding cyber and charter schools. It is important that we set the record straight before any votes are taken. **Here are some of the misconceptions about charter school "reform" that legislators are hearing:**

**Charter School Misconception #1: School districts will be relieved of the financial burden if the charter schools are paid directly by the state.**

Funding for cyber and charter schools is now provided by the school district, based on local expenditures, which places a significant financial burden on districts' resources. It has been suggested that school districts will be relieved of the financial burden if the money goes directly from the state (through the Department of Education) to the charter school. Nothing could be further from the truth; the fact is that funds given in a direct payment from PDE are simply deducted from the subsidy of the school district and shifted to the charter school.

**Charter School Misconception #2: School districts save money when students transfer to charter schools. And besides, only a few school districts across the state are greatly impacted by charter schools.**

Wrong. The numbers show that it is virtually impossible for a single dollar of savings to be realized in school district budgets when students attend charter schools. Districts don't save money when students attend cyber or charter schools because their fixed costs remain. They are not able to reduce teacher staff, building space or materials, and transportation costs remain the same. Furthermore, many of the students who choose to attend cyber and charter schools may have previously been home-schooled or enrolled in non-public and private schools, representing an entirely new expense for school districts.

This issue is not specific to limited parts of the state. Charter school costs affect every school district in the state, and every district has made a payout to a charter school(s). Data from the Department of Education shows the escalating costs paid by school districts to fund charter schools. In 2009-10, school districts paid \$795 million to charter schools with only about \$227 million reimbursed to them. These numbers grow even more alarming when considering the fact that, beginning with the current 2011-12 budget, the state no longer provides that partial reimbursement to school districts, leaving them to carry the entire burden of cost. The truth is that charter schools can and do add expense for every school district. Talk to your legislator about the costs of these schools on your school district's budget, and how that affects your district's programs and students, as well as the impact on the taxpayers.

**Charter School Misconception #3: Charter schools will help children coming from failing traditional public schools to succeed academically.**

This is another broad assumption with no basis in fact. The truth is that Pennsylvania's charter school performance is a mixed record and many are underperforming. While some charter schools have met the policy goal raising student achievement with innovative strategies and practices, many charter schools have spent more money to get worse results. Neither SB 1 nor HB 1348 requires academic performance targets or imposes corrective action when such targets are not met. Charter operators can be approved or renewed without a track record of academic success. Any legislation seeking to reform the current system must recognize the reality of these issues and address them.

**Charter School Misconception #4: School districts should be relieved that the state could take over the job of authorizing charter school applications, thus taking over a time-consuming duty from school boards. Also, this will be fairer to the charter schools because school boards don't want to approve the applications.**

There are serious problems with funding and oversight inherent in a statewide authorizer as already demonstrated in the current system for cyber charters. Duplicating this structure for bricks and mortar charter schools will only exacerbate the funding problems. Creating a new statewide authorizer to approve the opening or expansion of charter schools without the approval or consent of local school officials or taxpayers completely undermines Pennsylvania's tradition of local control and expands charters without involvement from local voters yet requires them to pay the bill.

**Please contact your legislator right now by clicking on "[Take Action](#)" at the top right corner of this alert and you will find a letter prepared for your convenience. Thank you!**