

Francis Scott Key Elementary School PTA
5001 Dana Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

July 1, 2010

Dear Key School Parents,

Welcome to a new year at Key School! We are looking forward to another productive year as we work together as a community to support our students and our school.

Please take a look at the Key PTA School 2010-2011 Calendar enclosed. We've got events every month of the year and don't want you to miss all the excitement. The year begins with a flurry so we've highlighted below the first few weeks.

If your child is an incoming Kindergartner, Kindergarten orientation will be held at **2pm on Friday August 20, 2010**. Please come by the Kindergarten classrooms at that time to meet your teacher and visit your classroom.

The school year begins **Monday, August 23, 2010** with line-up on the blacktop at 8:40 am. Please plan to accompany your child or children to school and sign in at one of the entrances to the school. As we have in past years, our school is eligible to win a cash prize from the United Black Fund for being the D.C. public school with the highest percentage of parents accompanying their children to the first day of school. So make sure you sign in (look for parents on the blacktop with clipboards). If you have an extra moment, plan to stop by for a chat and refreshments at a **Coffee Reception** in the cafeteria from 9:00-9:30. We look forward to seeing you there. *(Parents of **Pre-K students**, please be advised that the first day of school is Wed. August 25th, and for each day that week the children will have a half day and be dismissed at 12:15 from their classrooms. Pre-K Orientation will be held on Monday and/or Tuesday August 23 and 24.) You will be notified by telephone of your assigned orientation time.*

We host two **New Parent Welcome Receptions** the first week of school in the hope that every new parent can attend at least one. The Morning Coffee Reception will be on **Thursday, August 26, 2010** (9-10:30 am) at the home of Adriana and Bryan Elwood across the street from Key (5022 Eskridge Terrace) and the Evening Cocktail Reception will be that same evening (7-8:30 pm) at the home of Windsor and Allen Freemyer (2015 48th Street). This is a great opportunity to socialize and meet other parents – both new and old. Everyone is welcome.

Back to School Night is set for **Thursday, September 2, 2010**. This event is designed to allow our teachers and staff to articulate to you their educational plans for the year. Please note that Back to School Night is a parents-only event. We hope to see you there.

Mark your calendar for the annual **Back to School Family Picnic** on the school playground **Friday, September 24, 2010** from 6:30-8:00 pm. This event is a favorite for adults and children and a good chance to see old friends and make new ones. Pizza by the slice and drinks will be available for sale. Families bring potluck dishes to share (last names A-M bring salad/side dish and N-Z bring dessert). It's a great event and we hope you plan to come!

We have scheduled our first **General PTA Meeting for Tuesday, October 19, 2010** from 6:30-8:00 pm in the cafeteria. There we will discuss our plans and budget for the coming year, hear a brief presentation on our continuing partnership with the Fillmore Arts Center, learn what the Harvest Festival Chairs have planned and discuss the efforts of some of our new committees. The meeting will also give you an opportunity to see how you can participate in PTA activities. Childcare will be available.

Throughout the year, teachers send home information for you in your child's backpack. Please be sure to check your child's backpack daily to keep up to date on school activities and your child's homework! You will also receive *Keynotes*, the PTA's monthly newsletter, and *The Thursday Report*, a monthly newsletter from Mr. Landeryou and the Key School Staff. In an effort to minimize the amount of paperwork that's distributed to parents, however, the PTA will continue to send its weekly information out ONLY by email and by regular postings on the school's website (www.keyschooldc.org). So please, if you have one, include your email address on your Key School

Directory Form so that you can be included on the list. (If you do not have email, copies of the weekly distribution will be available in Key's front office.)

Finally, we have enclosed information to help new parents get started at Key and to ensure that veteran parents can be as fully integrated into life at Key as time and interest permit. Please submit all completed via our website at www.keyschooldc.org or they may be dropped at the front office in the envelope provided.

You should find: (Please fill out and return items in **bold**)

1. A welcome letter from our Principal, Mr. Landeryou
2. Key School PTA 2010-2011 Calendar
3. **PTA Dues, Supplies and Contribution Form** - You may return your dues form and check by mail or place it directly in the drawer in the school back office marked "PTA Dues" by **Friday, September 24, 2010**. As always, our goal is 100% PTA membership. Also, this year we are continuing our bulk supplies purchase effort. Rather than individual families driving all over the metropolitan area to provide class supplies for their children, the PTA has made bulk supply orders with the teachers. This saves money, time, and gasoline and ensures that each teacher has the necessary and adequate supplies they need for our kids all year long.. Please do your part and cover the cost of your child's supplies. The dues form includes a line item for a contribution toward the cost of the bulk supply order.
4. **PTA Directory Form** - Please complete and return by mail or to the PTA drawer in the office marked "Directory" on or before **Friday, September 3, 2010**. The Family Directory will be one of your most valuable resources, so please don't neglect this form!
5. **Volunteer Opportunities at Key** - The PTA is *your* organization. As you know, a huge part of Key's success is the direct result of active and ongoing parent involvement. There are opportunities to match every interest and every schedule. Please take a minute to read over the list and commit to participating in one or more activities.
6. Information on Retail Rebate Programs that Key School PTA participates in. Please sign up for these (it's fast and easy!) and help us shake the money tree!
7. **Fillmore Arts Center Dues & Info.** - If you are not familiar with the Fillmore Arts Program, please read the enclosed materials and visit Fillmore's website at www.fillmoreartscenter.org. Friends of Fillmore is basically the PTA for The Fillmore Arts Center. We encourage you to join and support this organization throughout the year as they help Fillmore to be the best it can be.

We are very excited about this new year and look forward to seeing everyone. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us at any time with your ideas and concerns.

Sincerely,

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