

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

July 1, 2008

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 2008-2009 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.

The school year begins **Monday, August 25, 2008** 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 27th, 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 25 and 26.)*

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 **Wednesday, August 27, 2008** (9-10:30 am) at the home of Adriana and Bryan Elwood across the street from Key (5019 Eskridge Terrace) and the Evening Cocktail Reception will be **Thursday August 28, 2008** (7-8:30 pm) at the home of Marie Collins and Nick Keenan (5066 Sherier Place). This is a great opportunity to socialize and meet other parents – both new and old. Everyone is welcome.

Mark your calendar for the annual **Back to School Family Picnic** on the school playground **Friday, September 5, 2008** 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!

Back to School Night is set for **Thursday, September 25, 2008**. 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.

We have scheduled our first **General PTA Meeting for Wednesday, October 15, 2008** 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 return all completed forms 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 2008-2009 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 26, 2008**. As always, our goal is 100% PTA membership. Also, this year we are trying something new: in lieu of teachers presenting parents with a list of needed supplies, the PTA has made bulk supply orders with the teachers to save money, time, and gasoline. 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 5, 2008**. 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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