



Fairmount School Student Council representatives Jonathan Stanhope, Zachary Kreitzer and Anna Morris help load items from a recent non-perishable food drive sponsored by the Council.

Fairmount School Student Council Reaches Out

Wednesday afternoons at Fairmount School have spawned a wide array of difference-making ideas thanks to the creativity and compassion of our school's Student Council. With the guidance of advisors Mrs. Wendy Downes and Ms. Catherine Chasse, the group comprised of representatives of each of the 15 homerooms has been intent on making a difference in the school, in the local community and on a national and international level.

Each homeroom elects a representative and an alternate each semester and the resulting representatives commit to two Wednesday afternoon meetings per month as well as related follow-up activities. Meetings are times when students discuss possible Council-sponsored activities and ultimately choose those that will have the greatest effect on student life and on the community. Council representatives then plan, promote and put into action their ideas with some impressive results so far this school year.

The Council has been busy on the school level this year. First, the Student Council organized and promoted Fairmount's participation in Red Ribbon Week, an event that takes place across the nation to promote healthy decision making with respect to drugs and alcohol. The Council came up with the idea of "Wear Red Wednesday" which resulted in incredible school-wide participation. On November 15th, the Council's efforts to create a "Mix it Up at Lunch" day were a great success. The Council created banners and posters to promote the event as part of a nation-wide school effort to reduce social cliques and groups and

to promote new friendships. Students were randomly assigned through a numbering system to lunch tables and found themselves, in most instances, eating with a new group of students who hopefully become new friends.

The Council put extra effort into decorating the cafeteria for the special event.

While a great deal of effort goes into making a difference within our building, the Student Council has made a real impact in the local community this school year. A recent school-wide food drive resulted in hundreds of nonperishable food items that were donated to Manna, a local food pantry. Upcoming events include a holiday sundry collection

(along with a few fun items!) for our neighbors at the Fairmount Boarding Home and an effort to support the local "Coats for Kids" campaign.

Nationally, the Student Council chose to partially match Fairmount's contribution to the district's "Dimes for Disaster" collection, offering \$250 that went directly to the Red Cross relief efforts. Students learned first hand the value of their contribution when guest speaker Susan Bell, a local official with the Red Cross, attended a Student Council meeting and explained the role of the Red Cross nationally and internationally. Mrs. Bell's words likely reminded the Council of the importance of an early-fall contribution to UNICEF that was earmarked for earthquake relief in Pakistan.

Whether on the school, community, national or international level, it is clear that the Fairmount School Student Council has its mind set on making a difference.

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Fruit Street School Lends a Hand to Louisiana Schools

The Harold Keller Elementary School, located in Metairie, Louisiana, was unable to hold their annual Scholastic Book Fair this fall due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. This Pre-K to Grade 5 school had only been open seven days before the hurricane hit on August 29th. The school is situated right outside of New Orleans and currently educates 460 students. The school lost a portion of their library in the hurricane due to water damage. In addition, eight of the Harold Keller Elementary School teachers lost their homes and were forced to leave their jobs. Over 100 students lost their homes and 80 of these students were forced to relocate to other areas. The Keller School did not reopen its doors until October 3rd, more than a month later.

According to Angela Bowen, a Bangor parent and the Scholastic Book Fair Chairperson of Fruit Street School, the Fruit Street School raised \$581.77 from the Book Fair held on October 4th and 5th. Scholastic agreed to double the amount raised at Fruit Street to donate in books to a Louisiana School affected by Hurricane Katrina. Angela belongs to a medical Yahoo interest group and had met a woman online who is a School Board Member in New Orleans. Angela shared the intentions of the project and asked the friend to search for an elementary school in the area that had been impacted by the hurricane and needed additional support for their library. The Harold Keller Elementary School was selected upon the friend's advice and research.

The Harold Keller Elementary School will receive \$1,163.55 worth of books from Scholastic to replenish their library. The teachers at the Keller School are selecting the needed books to supplement their curriculum and the books will be sent in the next few weeks. Principal Sandy Dolan shared with Angela the delight of everyone in the Keller School and it appears that a Bangor, Maine – Metairie, Louisiana friendship has begun. Students in second and third grade at both elementary schools are going to be pen pals for the remainder of the school year.

Another effort at the Fruit Street School was the "One for Books" project. During the book fair, parents could donate \$1.00 for the purchase of books for the Fruit Street School Library. Together the parents raised \$90. For every dollar raised in Bangor, Scholastic sent a matching contribution to a fund for the support of Louisiana schools affected by Hurricane Katrina. In addition to the \$1,163.55 worth of books donated to the Keller School, \$90 was donated by Scholastic to this general fund.

Fourteenth Street School Welcomes New Pre-K Program

Mrs. Bragdon and Mrs. Brewer

We are excited to have Bangor's youngest students at 14th Street School for the first time. Our Pre-K class is filled with enthusiastic four-year-olds eager to learn. Each day is full of new and wonderful experiences.

The children arrive by bus or with family at 8:30 a.m. and begin their school day with the option of having breakfast. During the month of November our class has been learning about the letter friends, colors, shapes and seasons. During Thanksgiving the children were busy making projects for their loved ones. Our classroom was full of turkey handprints, festive placemats and fall centerpieces galore. The children were proud of their wonderful creations. In addition, the children participate in the art, music, physical education and library programs at 14th Street School. The school day ends for them at 11:30 a.m.

We are very happy to be part of the 14th Street School family.



Luke Caruson and Dwight Knightly work on shapes and color matching.



Brett Brown, David Brown, Peter Blackwell, Libby Spekhardt and Libby Crosby work at centers while teacher Kristin Bragdon looks on.