

## Fiesta Night Press Release

Despite torrential rain and a lagging economy Farragut parents and students turn out in droves to raise \$6,000 at Fiesta Bingo Night to benefit art, computer and music programs

During one of the most stormy nights this year and amidst economic hard times Farragut parents and students came out in droves to support Farragut Elementary's 3rd annual Fiesta Bingo Night. 250 attendees from Farragut families came in out of the rain and packed the crowded cafeteria Friday night February 6th for an evening of bingo, bingo prizes, raffle baskets, authentic Mexican tacos and tamales, piñatas, bubble gum blowing contests and tortilla tossing. The Farragut Choir, directed by Mrs. Patty Eskridge, 1st grade teacher, entertained the crowd singing some great Fiesta songs such as Donkey come and a fun reworded version of Amore. "When you see tortillas fly by...it's Fiesta!" The choir was dressed in white, green and red which made it just adorable.

The children enjoyed buying light-up toys at the kids "store". The hands down favorites were light up laser pointer fingers and light-up twinkling teeth you insert in your mouth. Suzi Joi Thomason, parent and store manager said, "The kids just love the store. Where can you buy something so fun for just \$2? We sold out of the laser pointers in half an hour."

Dina Wahlert, Farragut Fan Club President and Fiesta chairperson, said, "We were so worried that people wouldn't come out in the rain and would be unable to spend as much as last year due to the economy. We shouldn't have worried. Everyone came out despite the rain. And, our community of loyal parents exceeded our profit numbers from last year! Fiesta Bingo Night was a terrific success. I have a renewed sense of optimism that with us all working together we can keep our school strong."

The children participated in two fun-filled events. The annual bubble gum blowing contest and the tortilla toss. Both children and parents chew bubble gum and within a specified time have to blow the biggest bubble on stage in front of the audience. For the tortilla toss the children toss tortillas into the center of hula hoops placed on the floor and the top 4 contestants have a toss off. Winners get to chose something from the bingo prize table.

Barbara Brown, Principal said, "Our Fiesta Bingo Night is just a wonderful event to not only make money for our art classes, computer lab and music appreciation classes, but brings the Farragut family together in a unique way. Our very active parent group here at Farragut plays a vital role in making Farragut a great place for families and creating a sense of community."