



Hunters Horn



PTA Newsletter • Volume 44, Issue 2 • October 2011

PTA President's Message

Happy Fall! The school year has begun with a wonderful start! We have had a fantastic response to our Mustang Pride and Membership Drive this year. If you have not become a member - it is not too late! Together we make the difference at our school!

I would like to thank all the families who have donated so much to our PTA and school. With the support of all our members, the PTA will be able to continue providing financial assistance for great events and programs. This month we're helping make possible the field trips for the 4th and 5th grades.

For October, we have two very special activities I encourage you to attend:

1. **Parent Education Series** featuring Ann Dolin, for a free homework help seminar before our next PTA meeting on October 26th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the library.
2. **Fall Harvest Festival** on October 29th from 3:00-6:00 p.m.

As with all our activities, more information can be found here in the Hunter's Horn, on flyers in your Tuesday folders, and online at hwespta.org.

Thanks to all the PTA volunteers who are making this year one our best yet! Our school and PTA is only as strong as our membership and volunteers - ask how you can help by contacting Jeri Thomas at vp4@hwpta.org to volunteer or contact Jo Wechselblatt at membership@hwpta.org for membership information. We need you and our students and school need the PTA's support!

Hope to see you at one of our upcoming events or programs! Feel free to contact me anytime at president@hwpta.org with questions or suggestions.

Jennifer Arakelian, PTA President

PTA MEETING IS OCTOBER 26TH AT 7 P.M. IN THE HWES LIBRARY

Come learn first-hand what's going on in the PTA and have a voice in the decisions that affect your child's school. This meeting follows the Homework Help seminar from 6:00-7:00, also in the library.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 11-14 Custodian and Cafeteria Appreciation Week
- October 17 - 21 Bus Driver and Crossing Guard Appreciation
- October 21 (Fri) South Lakes Homecoming Parade
- October 24 (Mon) Real Food For Kids meeting at Wolf Trap
- October 26 (Wed) Fall Picture Day
Homework Help Seminar, 6 p.m.
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.
- October 29 (Sat) Fall Harvest Festival
- November 1 - 4 Halloween Candy Buy Back
- November 7 - 8 Students Holidays

For complete calendar info, see www.hwpta.org. View as a list or calendar, print, and even add the PTA Google calendar to your Google calendar.

Fall Harvest Festival - October 29

The annual Hunters Woods Elementary School PTA Fall Harvest Festival is back this year, and it promises to be better than ever!

This year's school-wide festival will be on Saturday, October 29 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. There will be many fun events for the entire family, including lots of carnival games in the gym, crafts, food and drink in the cafeteria, and inflatable activities outside.

The ticket cost is \$7 to get in, per person (maximum \$25 per family), and is all inclusive. Scholarships are available - please contact Diane Beers at dnbeers@fcps.edu or in the school office. Please note that this is not a drop-off event; all students must be accompanied by an adult.

The theme for the festival is **Fall For a Great Book!** Kids are invited to come dressed as their favorite book characters, and game prizes will be books. We hope to see everyone from our Hunters Woods community there! 🍂

Book Donations Sought

The Fall Harvest Festival Committee is asking for donations of gently used children's books, which can be brought to the school any time this month. There is a donation box for the books in the main office.

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(Fall Harvest Festival, continued from page 1)
Donated books will be prizes for playing the carnival games at the festival; and leftovers will be used to create a new Book Prize Library, which will be used to reward students throughout the year. 🍷

Enter Cake Decorating Contest

On Friday, October 28--the day before the Fall Harvest Festival--there will be a cake decorating contest. That means it's that time again - time for you and your children to put your heads together and mix in a little creativity to whip up THE cake that is going to win its category in this year's cake decorating contest!! So get out your aprons and your chef's hats, and get baking! All cakes will be used for prizes at the cake walk at the Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 29, so be sure to come on over the next day to have fun and get one of these exciting cakes! Good luck and happy decorating! 🍷

Fall Harvest Volunteers Needed!

The HWES PTA Fall Harvest Festival is a fun and exciting event for the school, but MANY volunteers are needed to make it a success. We need volunteers to set up before the event, to run games, to help with crafts, to hand out food and drinks, to paint faces, and to clean up after it is all over. Middle or high school students who want to earn service hours are welcome to help.

To sign up for a volunteer shift at the Hunters Woods Elementary Fall Harvest Festival, go to www.SignUpGenius.com/go/fall1178. You can even sign up for multiple shifts.

As a special bonus, all volunteers will be entered into a special volunteer raffle! If you have any questions or need more information, email harvest@hwpta.org. 🍷

All Students Invited to Represent HWES in South Lakes Homecoming Parade October 21

Each year, South Lakes High School invites all the pyramid elementary schools to march in their grand Homecoming Parade. This year the parade is Friday, October 21, and SLHS has invited all HWES students to come out and proudly show their *Hunters Woods Mustang Spirit*.

In the years past, students marched with student-made letter signs spelling out Hunters Woods. We can do letter signs

and/or the parade committee would love to hear new ideas, such as floats, flags, or any other ideas. At the parade, children lead the Hunters Woods section, throw candy to parade spectators, just march with their friends, or do all the above. Whatever they choose, they have a great time. The group marches two miles from Hunters Woods Shopping Center to South Lakes High School. We meet around 4 pm and finish around 5:30. Parents and siblings are also invited to join in the marching fun.

If you wish your children to take part in this fun school event, please email parade@hwpta.org and we will send you details. (Save the date for a poster making session after school on Thursday, October 20.) 🍷

Spirit Wear Orders Coming Soon

Thanks to everyone who ordered apparel in September. According to plan, orders are to be printed and picked up the week of October 7th. Unless there have been any unforeseen delays, orders should be sorted and distributed in today's Tuesday Folders. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Suzanne at apparel@hwpta.org. 🍷

Custodian and Cafeteria Worker Appreciation Week October 11-14

Please encourage your children to say THANK YOU to the cafeteria workers this week, and acknowledge our custodians during the school day with thanks and greetings. It takes many hands to make Hunters Woods the happy, healthy place that we all enjoy each day, and we owe our hard-working custodians and lunch ladies our gratitude.

WE NEED FOOD DONATIONS: Donations may be dropped off in the office on Wednesday (10/12), sent in with students, or dropped off in the office or cafeteria before 10:00 am on Thursday (10/13). Baked goods are a much-anticipated treat during our Appreciation Luncheon on 10/13 and the workers are given bakery boxes to fill and take home to enjoy. Store-bought items are very welcome. Bagged candy, granola bars, and bottled water are also needed.

Questions? Want to volunteer to help set-up or clean up (2 shifts)? Know a business or individual willing to donate food for the luncheon? Please contact Tami Holsten holstent@cox.net or (703)715-2226.

Room Parents Needed Help Your Teachers!

Thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered to be room parents for the following teachers: Lifland, Richards, Wynn, Travis, Goodwin, Henney, Merritt, Downs, Kelly, Kirylo, Adams, Kaminski, Garrison, Love, Neubauer, Sink, Standiford, Warren, Cradle, Toth, and Coen.

If you have a child are in a classroom not listed above, please contact your teacher to inquire if he/she still needs a room parent. If you sign up to be a room parent, send an email to roomparents@hwpta.org. Bonnie Silas will then be in touch with you to offer support and ideas throughout the year. Thank you! 🍷

Reminder: Let Your Voice Be Heard – New State Funding Needed! Please VOTE!

In February of this year, Virginia lawmakers voted to increase the number of PE hours required in public schools to 150 minutes a week of physical activity, starting in 2014. (The current PE requirement in Fairfax County is 60 minutes.) In March, Governor McDonnell vetoed the legislation, describing it as an unfunded mandate. Several lawmakers have vowed to reintroduce the legislation. While many support the spirit of the law--aimed at reducing childhood obesity--without funding, this law could place a large financial burden on our schools, and may shorten or eliminate other valuable programs.

The VA State PTA supports additional state funding for the implementation of any increased PE requirements in grades K-8 so that there is no compromise of art, music, technology or foreign language programs currently in place. Hunters Woods PTA is part of a larger, state-wide Virginia PTA, and one of the benefits of membership is that we have the opportunity to weigh-in on the Proposed Legislative Program (PLP) each year. The 2012 PLP includes this important legislative action item that, if not passed, could have a serious impact on our school. To view the full details of the VA State PTA's 2012 proposed legislative program, please visit <http://www.vapta.org>.

All members of Hunters Woods PTA are encouraged to vote on this and two other proposed items in the PLP. Visit <http://www.hwpta.org/Tuesday/index.html> and either print out the paper ballot and

return it to your child's teacher or click the link that allows you to vote online.

Please vote by MONDAY, OCTOBER 19th, so we can compile and submit all the votes in time to meet the VA PTA deadline (at the end of that week). Don't miss this opportunity to let your voice be heard on important state-level PTA initiatives impacting our children! Thank you. For more info, contact presidentelect@hwpta.org.

Support HWES Store Receipts Programs

It's not too late, but please don't wait any longer to designate Hunters Woods Elementary School as the beneficiary of stores in our community that have programs in place to benefit local schools! Signing up for these programs is a quick and easy way for families to support Hunters Woods Elementary School. Last year our school earned over \$1,900 through these programs!

There is no additional cost to you for participating; all you need to do is link your store cards to our school. To link your cards, you can either stop by the customer service desk at the stores or you may designate Hunters Woods through the stores' websites.

- **Safeway** - www.escrip.com. HWES eScrip program code is 6518184. Sign-up by November 1, 2011.
- **Giant Food** - www.giantfood.com/aplus. HWES A+ Bonus Bucks code is 01983.
- **Harris Teeter** - www.harristeeter.com. HWES Together in Education program code is 5138.
- **Target** - www.target.com. HWES Take Charge of Education program code is 103648.
- **Office Depot**: www.officedepot.com. HWES 5% Back to Schools program code is 70104580.

There is no need to link a card for the school to benefit from the Office Depot program; just mention our school code whenever you shop online, by phone or at the store.

Please note: Even if you signed up for these programs last year, you must sign up or renew again this school year in order for our school to benefit from the programs this year. Sign up or renew today! 🍷

Parent Education Update

Real Kids, Real Food: Monday, October 24, 2:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Elementary School

- Students, parents, teachers, and administrators from across Fairfax County are invited to discuss ways to provide “real” food for students without increasing costs. RSVP and details available at www.realfoodforkids.org.

FREE Parent Workshop on Homework Made Simple: Wednesday, October 26, 6:00 – 7:00 pm at HWES, featuring Ann Dolin, a recognized expert in education and learning disability issues. Ann is also the author of the newly released book, [Homework Made Simple — Tips, Tools and Solutions for Stress-Free Homework](#).

Join us to:

- Identify your child’s homework profile: (Disorganized, Rusher, Procrastinator, Avoider, Inattentive, Easily Frustrated)
- Learn easy and practical solutions to address each profile
- Set up homework space and effectively establish and maintain organization of materials at school and at home
- Teach students how to prioritize, break down large tasks, and plan assignments
- Reduce procrastination to eliminate last minute stress
- Encourage effective study skills for academic success
- Maintain/promote on-task and peaceful behavior during homework time
- Find the balance between helping too much and not enough

RSVP for free homework parent workshop at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/anndolan>

Help Build Our Parent Education Library: Do you have a great parenting book that you’d like to share, or perhaps an educational CD that made a big difference for your child? Please donate it and help us build resources for our parent education library! To give you some ideas, the most popular topics identified in our parent survey last spring included: Homework Strategies, Standardized Testing; Friendships and Peer Pressure; Bullying (includes cyber-bullying); Self-esteem (how to bolster and support your child’s); Hurried Parent, Hurried Child; and Taming the Media and the Electronic Monster (including internet safety). All parenting topics are welcome, and we encourage you to contact us at Parented@hwpta.org if you have ideas for building up these resources.

You can send your donated book into school with your child, including a note that says “PTA Parent Ed Library.” Or stop by the school and drop your donation outside the main office in the box marked “Parent Education Library donations. Thank you in advance for your support!

Halloween Candy Buy-Back November 1- 4

Please join us again this year as we collect extra, unopened Halloween candy and cards for the troops. The PTA delivers all collected candy and cards to the Reston Tisseront Orthodontics office, which donates \$2 to Children’s National Medical Center for every pound of candy we collect. Stay tuned for more details this month. Have a spooky Halloween and don’t forget to collect for the troops and needy children!

International Day

Welcome! Bienvenida!

Willkommen! Kuwakaribisha!

It’s a while away but please start thinking about how you would like to participate in the International Day Festivities here at Hunters Woods Elementary School on March 8, 2012. We have a wonderfully diverse community at our school and we want to take the opportunity to celebrate our different traditions and cultures. This is a great chance to get to know something about our neighbors here in Virginia and around the world - and to share the unique aspects of our varied heritages. Please contact Nina Busch at nebusch@hotmail.com if you want to help organize or participate in this fun worldwide event right here at your school. 🌍

Can You Spell F-U-N?

Our best 3rd thru 6th grade spellers will compete to be the Hunters Woods Spelling Bee Champion and have lots of fun along the way including a T-shirt art contest open to all students. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and Tuesday folders and join in the FUN! 🌍

LOST & FOUND

Already missing a lunchbox? Can't find the sweater that was left on the playground? Please make sure you have your child's full name marked in or on all personal items. That way, if any of them DO find their way to the Lost & Found, our volunteer team will be sure to send them back. The Lost & Found is located opposite the stairs to the Gym.