

# Hunters Horn

January 2006

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## President's Message

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! I hope that you had a restful and revitalizing week off.

In looking back at the Fall, thank you to all who made our fundraising successful. As you may know, the PTA is budgeted this year to give over \$83,000 back to the school, students, and staff of Hunters Woods. These funds are allocated to such categories as Community Outreach, Cultural Arts, Field Trips, Lunch Program, Mini Grants (to fulfill enrichment needs of our entire staff and student body), Professional Development, Scholarships, Literary Magazine, Staff Appreciation, Distance Learning, and our International Festival. We have also purchased a mobile cart with sixteen laptop computers, one of the trophy cases that sits inside the front doors, are awaiting installation of our Weatherbug Weather Station.

The Fall Festival was a fun event for the whole family. Thanks to Blakely Meyers and Eleanor Desai for working tirelessly to coordinate this event. They and over 200 volunteers (for whom Blakely and Eleanor express their sincere appreciation) made the best of a perfect Fall day. It was the ideal way to begin the holiday season for all.

Our first (and hopefully annual) Carrabbas Dinner was held in conjunction with Math and Technology Night in December. Thanks to Angela Irwin for chairing the dinner and all of those who contributed their time and talents to make it successful. It was wonderful for our families to get together for a social (and educational) evening. Thanks to Mr. Smith and his strings students for providing the entertainment, and the teachers for hosting the Math and Technology event for our students and their families.

The Book Fair was also successful and well attended. Nancy Mamros, Deborah Lannen, and Maureen Becker did a wonderful job of organizing and executing this event. Thanks to all of them and the many volunteers for a fun week-plus (thanks to the snow) of excitement about books!

In mid-December, Micki Moravitz converted the Teachers' Lounge into a beautiful holiday Sweet Shoppe. Thanks to Micki and the parents who provided treats, making this a special event for the entire staff.

The Imagination Celebration, The Way of Water, was held in December. I hope that you were able to attend this all-school event. Thanks to Art Teacher Cathy Germain, all of the

specialists, and a whole team of parent volunteers in assisting the Art Department in converting the upstairs of the school into an interactive museum.

For many classroom activities, Room Parents and classroom volunteers play a key role in the planning and execution. Thanks to Susan Sather for chairing the Room Parent committee, and to all of you for your constant support. You planned creative and engaging holiday parties. The next class parties will be held on Friday, June 16.

In the next couple of weeks, each family will receive a free copy of the School Directory. This has been a huge effort. Thank you to Susan Sather and Shashi Ravishankar for putting it together—and to Pam Light and Elysa Katz for the advertising. If you would like to purchase an additional copy for \$5.00, write to [Directory@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:Directory@HuntersWoodsPTA.org).

Other committee chairs whose efforts are ongoing throughout the year are Lori Reffett for Box Tops; Julia Sullivan for WordMasters; Caroline Hemenway and Julia Sullivan for Odyssey of the Mind; Jody Wolfe and Jane Kolb (and many volunteer judges) for Reflections; Joan Burkhart and Blakely Meyers (with a lot of help from Lisa Foley) for the yearbook; and Rozanne Silverwood, Karen Berube, Jody Wolfe, Susan Brownsword, Maureen Becker, Ann Richards, Trish Heatherly, and Debi Miles for *Snickerdoodle* (our literary magazine). Thanks to you and to all who are working with you; and we look forward to seeing the final products!

The school year is now halfway over (yes, can you believe it?), and it is not too early to plan next year's volunteer positions. Every year at this time we realize that the parents whose youngest child is in sixth grade will not be at our school much longer. Many of them have given generously of their time during their years at Hunters Woods. They, along with those looking for a change to other PTA volunteer efforts, leave behind gaps in our list of committee chairs.

Chairing a committee is a great way to become more involved in the school. A complete list of committees and current chairs is included in the beginning of the school directory and on the website [www.HuntersWoodsPTA.org](http://www.HuntersWoodsPTA.org). If you are interested in becoming more involved, contact the Volunteer Coordinators, [Volunteer@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:Volunteer@HuntersWoodsPTA.org), or me, at [President@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:President@HuntersWoodsPTA.org), for help finding your perfect niche.

There are still many opportunities to volunteer this year. When you receive notices and flyers, consider giving your time and talents to make our school and community better places. If you've missed a flyer for an upcoming event, contact the Committee Chair to volunteer or just learn more. You can find their email addresses on the PTA website, [www.HuntersWoodsPTA.org](http://www.HuntersWoodsPTA.org). They will always welcome your email or call!  
—Cathy Uhrig

## Record-Breaking Reflections!

Hunters Woods nearly doubled last year's artistic bounty in the annual PTA Reflections program. Hunters Woods students created 118 entries—more than 11% of the school population participated. The entries were in visual arts, photography, literature, and music. Eleven HWES entries were selected for submission to the PTA Council contest. Winners from that Council contest are then sent District and then State contests. To honor the amount and caliber of the entries, a HWES reception will be held in March to honor all the participants who submitted entries. The entries will then be left on display during other parent-attended events. Waiting until March for this event will allow the HWES winning artwork to be returned to HWES so that it can all be displayed. We will let you know when the date for this event is finalized. Any questions? contact Jane Kolb or Jody Wolfe at [Reflections@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:Reflections@HuntersWoodsPTA.org).

## January Events

- 17** Chamber Concert 7 PM
- 18** Band & Strings Concert 7 PM
- 19** Chorus/General Music Concert 7 PM
- 27/30** No School—Teacher Workdays

## February Events

- 1** Principal's Coffee 6:30 PM  
PTA Meeting 7:30 PM
- 3** International Festival 6:30 PM
- 8** K-2 Curriculum Night 7 PM

## March Events

- 17** Talent Share 7 PM
- 31** Silent Auction 7 PM  
Movie Night 7 PM
- April 1** Skate Quest Family Night

## Volunteer Badges

Volunteer ID Badges made from pictures taken at earlier PTA events, are available in a basket in the main office near the sign-in computer. If you have any questions, please email [Volunteer@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:Volunteer@HuntersWoodsPTA.org).

If you would like a badge, the volunteer coordinators will be at the February PTA meeting to take pictures. These ID badges can be worn in school in place of the "Visitor" stickers.

## Fall Harvest Festival Thanks!

Thank you to all the wonderful people who helped make this year's Fall Harvest Festival such a big success. There were over 200 volunteers who made it all happen. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, before, during, and after the Festival. In addition, I want to say a special thank-you to some teachers, staff, and parent volunteers who made a significant contribution of their time and/or expertise—the Festival could not have happened without them, including Olivia Toatley, Dee Nebert, Darrell Grant, Louis Nguyen, Clara Johnson, Micki Moravitz, Cathy Uhrig, Mary Ellen Rubenstein, Lisa Groves, Karen Purdy, Jennifer Edgerton, Michelle Krakar, and Susan Sather. If I have forgotten anyone I sincerely apologize—it took so many people to make it happen, and every contribution was greatly appreciated. Thanks again!

*Eleanor Desai and Blakely Meyers, Fall Harvest Festival Chairs*

## Silent Auction

The Hunters Woods Silent Auction will take place as a stand-alone event this year. Plan to join us Friday, March 31 for your chance to get incredible auction items and services donated by the teachers, administration, students, Hunters Woods families, and the local community. To help solicit auction items, suggest a local business for us to approach for a donation, or to help plan this fun evening event, email [Auction@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:Auction@HuntersWoodsPTA.org).

Soon your Room Parents will request donations for a Class Basket. Each class selects a theme, and items to fit that theme are collected from students in that class and put together to create spectacular baskets for the auction.

## Talent Share

The Talent Share will be held on March 17, so start considering your children's potential solo or group acts now. Look for sign-up sheets in upcoming Tuesday folders.

## Imagination Celebration Volunteers

Thank you so much to all of the wonderful parents who generously donated time to our Imagination Celebration in December. Due to a move I was not able to pitch in with you, but as usual, you more than filled in the gap and helped make this another Hunters Woods success story. I look forward to our annual Children's Museum, which will take place during the week of March 20. I promise not to move during that event, and I hope to see you all amid the tape and staples.

*Donna Atkinson, Museum Coordinator*

Here are some special thanks received from Ms. Germain:

Thank you so very much for all of your help in installing the Imagination Celebration Museum. We could not have ever put it together without your many hours of help and patience. Special thanks goes to Mrs. Miesner for helping me organize the volunteers: she put in about 20 hours of time!

In addition, Thank you to Ms. Saundravelli for all of her help every Wednesday. She is the one who mats the art in the frames and helps with the displays throughout the year.

## Book Fair

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Fall Book Fair. It was very successful, despite the schedule changes required by school cancellations and early closings. To all of you who volunteered, THANK YOU! You did an awesome job and did so with great cheerfulness and flexibility. We could not have made it through the week without your help. Thanks!

*Maureen Becker, Deborah Lannen, and Nancy Mamros,  
Book Fair Chairs*

## International Festival

The International Committee is excited to announce that it is planning the **Hunters Woods International Celebration** scheduled for Friday, **February 3, 2006**. Plan to come and enjoy the food, fashions, dances, music, and a peek into the cultures of many countries represented by Hunters Woods families.

We need volunteers to help:

### General Volunteers

- Create visual displays of countries and cultures;
- Prepare tasty fare for the potluck;
- Speak or present to students about your culture;
- Show off talents in song, dance, music, and more;
- Set up and take down for the Celebration

### Child Volunteers

- Children to dress up in cultural clothing for the fashion showcase

### Entertainment Director –

- Recruits musicians and dancers for the program and puts together the performance schedule.

Please contact co-chairs Jessica Lewis and Raba Letteri at [International@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:International@HuntersWoodsPTA.org) with any questions.

## WordMasters

The HWES WordMasters Teams competed nationally last December with terrific results. The national median score for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Gold Teams was 109. The HWES 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Gold Team scored a remarkable 144 points. Nationwide, 6,100 children took this WordMasters Challenge. Congratulations to our high scorers: Kalyani Pillai, who scored 19 out of 20, and Shantanu Gore, who scored 18.

The national median score for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Gold Teams was 110. The HWES 5th Grade Gold Team scored an impressive 129 points. 8,300 students took this Challenge nationwide. Congratulations to high scorer, Kiffa Conroy, who scored 18.

Congratulations to both teams! They did very well. Good luck in your next challenge later this winter!

WordMasters is a national organization in which children are challenged with words and analogies. The team meets once a week for three five-week sessions. Winter Session begins on January 23. Spring Session runs from late March to May 2. WordMasters is open to all children in grades 3–6. If you have a child interested in joining, please email [WordMasters@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:WordMasters@HuntersWoodsPTA.org).

## Daffodil Days Are Coming Soon

Watch your Tuesday Folders in February for the opportunity to support the good work of the American Cancer Society through their annual Daffodil Days. This year they will be offering bunches of 10 cut daffodils or potted bulbs (3–4 bulbs per pot) for a \$10 donation and a new item called a Bear and a Bunch for a \$25 donation (an adorable Boyd's Bear and a bunch of daffodils). Delivery will be in mid-March. *Susan Rigger, PTA liaison for Daffodil Days*