

# Hunters Horn

November 2005

Volume 38, Issue 4



## President's Message

It is exciting to see all of the good works going on in the halls of Hunters Woods. It is an honor to be part of this wonderful community of parents participating in the education of all of our children. At the November PTA meeting, Mrs. Toatley commented that there seem to be more parents involved in the everyday activities at our school than ever before. Parents work with students in reading, math and language arts, in the art and music rooms, assist in the office, library and clinic, make copies and stuff Tuesday folders. Thanks to those who spend time with our students and staff. Your gift of time is invaluable and appreciated.

The PTA's largest fundraiser, Innisbrook Gift Wrap, has "wrapped" up. Thanks to Janice Bako, Glenda Meisner, Nancy Mamros and the volunteers they worked with—ending with delivery of orders by conference time. Online orders will support our school year round.

After school activities are in full swing. Please remember to pick up your child on time after activities. Many class leaders are volunteers and/or have other obligations after class.

There is just over one month of school left in 2005, but we have several large events planned. This weekend, I hope to see everyone at the Fall Harvest Festival. There's fun planned for the whole family! Committee chairs Eleanor Desai and Blakely Meyers, along with a host of volunteers, have organized this wonderful event! For more information, contact them at [harvest@hunterswoodspta.org](mailto:harvest@hunterswoodspta.org).

We'll bring in December with our much-anticipated Carrabas Dinner, chaired by Angela Irwin, paired with Math and Technology Night. Bring your family for a scrumptious meal shared with the Hunters Woods family. Enjoy the dinner music provided by some of our strings players. To help with this event, e-mail [dinner@hunterswoodspta.org](mailto:dinner@hunterswoodspta.org).

Also in December, fill in your gift lists at our Book Fair during the week of the annual Imagination Celebration. Maureen Becker, Nancy Mamros, and Deborah Lannen have been working with Bookworm Plantation to bring high quality books to our school.

Micki Moravitz chairs the final PTA event of 2005—our Teacher Appreciation Sweet Shoppe. PTA parents do the baking (or shopping) to provide a generous assortment of treats for the teachers to bring home. As you prepare for the holidays, remember the teachers December 14, for the Sweet Shoppe.

Students will celebrate the year's end together. On December 22, each class will have a special party. Room Parents will contact you with party information and requests for help. Thanks to our Room Parents, who show their dedication to your teachers and students by organizing the "extra" activities that the children enjoy so much.

## November Events

- 16** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Luncheon Meeting 7 PM
- 18** Thanksgiving Luncheon w/ your child(ren)
- 19** Fall Harvest Festival 10 AM–2 PM
- 23** School dismissed 2 hours early
- 24–25** No School—Happy Thanksgiving!
- 29** Yearbook Orders Due

## December Events

- 1** Carrabas Dinner 5:30 or 6:30 PM Seating  
Math & Technology Night 6-8 PM
- 12–16** Book Fair
- 13** Imagination Celebration K–3 at 7 PM
- 14** PTA Sweet Shoppe
- 15** Imagination Celebration 4–6 at 7 PM
- 22** Class Winter Parties
- 23-Jan. 1** No School—Winter Break

When you are looking for information about the school or the PTA, please look at our websites. The Hunters Woods FCPS website and the PTA website ([www.hunterswoodspta.org](http://www.hunterswoodspta.org)) share in updates and are linked. Kelly Midura has diligently kept the PTA website updated with current information, including copies of this newsletter. To contact any committee chair, click on Officers and Committees; the e-mail addresses listed there will reach all the chairs for that committee. If you have not yet signed up for Keep In Touch, there is a link on our website. Keep In Touch allows you to receive e-mails with important information about our school.

With great pleasure I can announce that Stephen D. Hockett has been chosen as the 2006 FCPS Principal of the Year and the recipient of The Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award. You can read about the awards and Mr. Hockett in last Thursday's Fairfax section of the *Washington Post*. We are proud of Mr. Hockett and grateful that he was a part of our Hunters Woods School Family. Congratulations can be sent to Mr. Hockett in his new position as principal at McNair Elementary. A full press release is available at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu). —Cathy Uhrig

## Fall Harvest Festival—Saturday!

Fall Harvest Festival time is here! The fun starts on Saturday, November 19, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Admission is \$5 per person with \$20 maximum per family. Volunteers earn free admission.

There are still lots of opportunities to get involved:

- **Cake Decorating Contest**—Friday, November 18 drop off cakes outside PTA office between 8 and 9 AM.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Obstacle Course**—Friday, November 18 from 3:10 PM to 5 PM in the gym—permission slips required.
- **Bake Sale Treats**—Drop off Friday morning by 9 AM or Saturday morning between 8 and 10 AM.

Activities commence at 10 AM, including a Bake Sale in the cafeteria, as well as popcorn and cotton candy vendors. Starting at 11:20 AM, pizza and chips will be available too.

A Cake Walk, featuring the cakes from the cake-decorating contest as prizes, will be held in the hallway by the gym. Crafts, Hair Braiding and Face Painting will take place in the cafeteria. Carnival games will be set up the gym, including an obstacle course designed by the 6<sup>th</sup> graders, Human Bowling and much more! Each game will offer prizes, so come try your luck! A new game this year, Everi's Pumpkin Toss, was designed by Everi Osofsky, the winner of the Young Inventors Contest. Outside, there will be two moon bounces and an inflatable obstacle course.

It's not too late to help! E-mail your name, availability, and class to [harvest@hunterswoodspta.org](mailto:harvest@hunterswoodspta.org) today. Older children (7<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade) can earn service hours volunteering at the Festival! *Volunteer for one shift and get free admission!*

## The Book Fair Is Coming!

The PTA book fair is coming! In a few weeks you will receive in your child's Tuesday folder a list of books available at the book fair. Each classroom will be scheduled to visit the book fair twice during the week of the December 12–16: once to preview the books and once to purchase (for those who wish to do so). Parents and siblings are welcome any time during our open hours: Monday, 8:30 AM–1 PM; Tuesday–Thursday, 8:30 AM–3:30 PM; and Friday 8:30 AM–12 noon. Evening hours are available Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the Imagination Celebration (6–9 PM.) Bookworm Plantation provides a terrific selection of books—this is a great opportunity to holiday shop and support your PTA.

Volunteers are still needed for many of the times listed above, and for set up on Saturday, 12/10 (10 AM–1 PM) and pack up on Friday, 12/16 (12 noon–2 PM). We appreciate any time you can offer! Please contact us at [Bookfair@hunterswoodspta.org](mailto:Bookfair@hunterswoodspta.org).

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## Carrabbas Dinner at HWES

Carrabbas Restaurant is catering a dinner for Hunters Woods Elementary and you're all invited.

Join us for a scrumptious bargain-priced meal before heading off to participate in the Math & Technology Night activities with your children. Reserve your spot today at either the 5:30 or 6:30 seating with the form from last week's Tuesday Folder (available at [www.hunterswoodspta.org](http://www.hunterswoodspta.org) also).

The Carrabbas Night coordinators are looking for volunteers to help with same-night ticket sales, decorating/set up, clean up, and serving dessert and drinks. To help with this fun event, please e-mail: [dinner@hunterswoodspta.org](mailto:dinner@hunterswoodspta.org) or call Angela Irwin at 703-758-9334.

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## Great Gobs of Pumpkins & Bulbs!

Our Kiss & Ride families rose to the challenge: We beat last year's 85 pumpkins with a grand total of 136 used pumpkins collected for composting in the school garden compost bins! Thanks for the donations; last year's pumpkins composted into 20+ gallons of "black gold" organic soil amendments for our gardens!

We used that compost at our bulb-planting workday last Saturday, when six PTA moms came out for a magnificent day in the sun. We planted nearly 700 spring-flowering bulbs and brought in four new plants for the back hallway, near the stairwell. –*Catherine Linberg*

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## Order Yearbooks Today!

Don't miss out! It's now time to order your yearbook. Order forms are enclosed in your Tuesday folder. Please complete one form for each order and enclose payment of \$16 per book. Make checks out to Irvin Simon. DO NOT combine sibling orders. Reserve your book right away; orders are due by November 29.

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## HWES Helps with \$10,000 bonus

Thanks to all who participated in the mini walk on Sunday, October 23rd. The sunny and warm Sunday was a welcome change after a dreary and wet Saturday. We had a total of 58 registered walkers and collected \$1,205 for Reston Interfaith to support the Embry Rucker Homeless Shelter. Our walk contributed to the Reston Interfaith's Mini Walk, allowing them to receive an additional \$10,000 in funds from the Fannie Mae Foundation. In addition, the Fannie Mae Foundation donated \$1 for every registered walker to the Greater New Orleans Foundation to help rebuild New Orleans.

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## Trash Rescue

Please save your empty and cleaned frozen juice cans, oatmeal containers, and salt containers. Ms. Cox's Head Start class needs these items to create musical instruments and lovely works of art. Clean empty containers can be dropped off in the school office.

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## Digital Yearbook Input

We will now be using digital photographs to compile our yearbook. If you have any high-quality photographs (camera with 3.0 mega pixels or better OR digital photo that is 4 x 6 or larger with 300dpi) of school/classroom events that you would like to submit to the yearbook, please send high-resolution copies (not e-mail versions, which are often reduced to 72 dpi) to: [blakelymeyers@comcast.net](mailto:blakelymeyers@comcast.net) or burn them to a disk and drop them by the school office directed to Blakely Meyers, PTA Yearbook.

This year we want to include after-school activities in the yearbook. If you teach or coach an after-school activity, please consider sending in a picture of your group.

Please name the photo file in some manner that reflects what it is and/or what event, situation it came from (e.g., kids&teachsockhop, principaleleclslidesockhop, kidsgettingoffbus, angelclasscandid).

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## Your Trash Is Our Treasure

Keep those Box Top\$ for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education coming in! Thanks for all you've clipped and turned in so far, and keep sending in labels and box tops to help Hunters Woods.

We're awaiting a \$255 check for our recent submission. We have earned over 19,000 points through labels for education. This allows Mrs. Toatley to get supplies and/or equipment for our school. Have your kids turn in box tops or Campbell's, Prego, Swanson or Pepperidge Farm labels or UPCs to their teacher. Look on the product packages to see what you need to save.

**NEWS FLASH!** Ziploc is joining Box Top\$ for Education. Look for box tops on all Ziploc products. Clip them out for school!

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## Gift Wrap Online

Throughout the school year, you can order from Innisbrook online and continue to support our school. Simply go to [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com) and use our ID number, 103834, to order.

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Luncheon

Parents of sixth graders are invited to the first volunteers' planning meeting tomorrow, November 16, in the school library at 7 PM.

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## Pet Parade (Live & Stuffed)

All pets, live or stuffed, walking, crawling or wiggling, cuddly, slimy or silky are welcome to the Pet Show and Parade this Saturday, November 19. The outdoor show starts at 9 AM in the Kiss & Ride loop (weather permitting.) Look for an entry form in today's Tuesday folder. Pets must remain outside the school building, and must be appropriately restrained.

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## Volunteer Tax Preparers

Last year, HWES sent volunteers to support J.C. Nalle Elementary School in DC's Ward 7. Help J.C. Nalle parents and other families in some of DC's most distressed neighborhoods: Your time can save low-income taxpayers hundreds of dollars and help them to claim valuable tax refunds. The DC CASH Campaign trains volunteers to prepare tax returns for the low-income residents of Wards 5, 7, and 8 in Washington, DC. Last year the Campaign helped over 1,000 taxpayers claim a total of **\$1.8 million** in federal and DC tax refunds. No previous tax preparation experience is needed, but every volunteer must attend two training sessions. A commitment of once a week from late January through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, is needed. Sign up online at: [www.dccash.org](http://www.dccash.org) or contact Linda Eatmon-Jones at [leatmonjones@thewomenscenter.org](mailto:leatmonjones@thewomenscenter.org) for more information.

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## PTA Membership Update

So far, over 638 Hunters Woods parents, staff and supporters have joined the PTA. Thanks for your support!

PTA membership cards were sent home in your child's Tuesday folder on November 9th. For those families who have not signed up for PTA memberships . . . it's never too late! Find a PTA membership application online at [www.hunterswoodspta.org](http://www.hunterswoodspta.org) under Forms and Publications. Paper applications are in the front office.

If you have any questions regarding memberships, contact Joy Heuer or Stacey Graf, Membership Co-Chairs, through e-mail at [membership@hunterswoodspta.org](mailto:membership@hunterswoodspta.org).

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## Volunteer Badge Lanyards

The new "Hunters Woods" lanyards are here. To buy one send \$5 along with a slip of paper listing your name, your child's name, and their teacher in an envelope addressed to "PTA Lanyards." Lanyards will be sent home with your child.