

Hunters Horn

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President's Message

It seems like we just started, but we are already almost through the first grading period of the school year! The PTA 2005–2006 Budget passed at the Back-to-School Nights. We are implementing many programs included in the budget. Thank you to all who attended and voted on this important instrument.

Many activities have already happened, and more are in progress. Thank you to all who worked on all of the events and activities already this year. While the committee chairs organize the events, volunteers who take an active role who enable their success. Thanks for your work on Innisbrook Gift Wrap, chaired by Janice Bako, Glenda Meisner and Nancy Mamros; the Volunteer Orientation, chaired by Dianne Hansen, Cindy Hann, and Maureen Becker; After-School Activities, chaired by Mary Malzahn and Eleanor Weis (and FLEX—Maya Skaff; Chess Club—Rick Uhrig; WordMasters—Julia Sullivan; and Hands -On Science—Dana Kennedy); Apparel Sales, chaired by Karen Berube; Membership, chaired by Joy Heuer and Stacey Graf; Calendar Sales, chaired by Mary Ellen Rubenstein; Odyssey of the Mind, chaired by Caroline Hemenway and Julia Sullivan; our play production of *HONK*, chaired by Elysa Katz; Room Parents and Directory Production, chaired by Susan Sather; Directory Advertising, chaired by Pam Light and Elysa Katz; *Snickerdoodle*, chaired by Karen Berube; Help the Homeless Mini-Walk chaired by Shashi Kuppa; and Rachel Negri for organizing Lego League (and all of the volunteer coaches).

Look for other activities that are getting geared up, including Fall Harvest Festival (our largest all-school family event) chaired by Blakely Meyers and Eleanor Desai; and the Book Fair, chaired by Maureen Becker, Nancy Mamros, and Deborah Lannen. When you see flyers come home asking for help, please consider thoughtfully how you can contribute. If you would like to be contacted by e-mail for these or other activities at the school, sign up for specific events on Keep In Touch through the link at www.hunterswoodspta.org.

Those families with more than one child at HWES should have noticed having less full Tuesday folders. Thanks to Susan Sather and a group of helpers for implementing the Oldest and Only lists. If you are a classroom Tuesday folder stuffer, please follow the directions on the laminated sheet located in the mailbox area of the classroom and contact Susan if you have any questions at vicepresident2@hunterswoodspta.org. A fun time was shared by all who attended the Chick-Fil-A

dinner and the Sock Hop. A huge thanks to Teresa Fleischmann for organizing the dinner and for being the cow (yes, it WAS her). Joan Burkhart and Jane Kolb did a wonderful job with the Sock Hop—and thanks to all who contributed the delicious baked goods.

The nomination, by Dee Nebert, for Steve Hockett for Principal of the Year, has been submitted. Thanks to all who contributed heartfelt letters and to Katy Vickland for coordinating this effort. Thanks to all who came to the Principal's Coffee on October 5. It was wonderful to see Steve again and be able to wish him well at McNair Elementary School. Raba Letteri, Hospitality Chair, is especially grateful to all the parents who contributed to the delicious bounty of treats for the reception. Mr. Hockett was so pleased to learn about the trophy case dedicated to his service at Hunters Woods, and he has welcomed all of us to come to his new school and help with individual reading. Contact him or me to help.

Thanks to all who helped with the individual photo day. Your efforts made the day go smoothly. Thanks also to the ongoing efforts of Kelly Midura, who is keeping our website (www.hunterswoodspta.org) up-to-date; Lori Reffett for keeping up with the Box Tops and Campbell's Labels (they add up quickly); Jody Wolfe for Grocery Receipts; Susan Sather for the *Hunters Horn* (and Catherine Linberg for editing this and other documents sent her way); Raba Letteri, Susan Brownsword, and Shashi Ravishankar for Hospitality; Marina Matthes for running the copies on the high speed Risograph; Debbie Szymczyk for Phonemic Awareness; and Catherine Linberg for continually maintaining our outdoor areas and the school marquee.

Our first staff appreciations (Cafeteria and Custodial Staff) have already happened. Bus Drivers and our Crossing Guard are recognized this week—thanks to Appreciation Chair Joan Lynch. When you speak to ANY of the Hunters Woods staff or teachers, go ahead and thank them. Don't wait for their designated appreciation event. Their efforts are invaluable and often seem boundless. Let them know now how much you appreciate them!

—Cathy Uhrig

Mark Your Calendars!

Fall Harvest Festival will be on Saturday, November 19 from 10 AM to 2 PM. This event is Hunters Woods Elementary's big fall, family, fun event. There will be games, crafts, face painting, hair braiding, an obstacle course designed by the 6th graders, moon bounces, cotton candy, popcorn, pizza, a bake sale, student cake decorating contest, and more. The event is entirely run by volunteers, and we desperately need a few parents to help with coordinating the food and game portions of the event. We will also need assistance setting up Friday evening and cleaning up immediately following the event. To help please e-mail harvest@hunterswoodspta.org!

Also each class is responsible for providing the staffing for one of the activities during the Festival. A sign-up sheet was out at Back-to-School night; however we still have lots of empty spots. A parent from your class will be calling in the next few weeks to ask you to help out and volunteer for a one-hour commitment. Please help if you can. Thanks!

October Events

23 Help the Homeless Walk 2 PM

November Events

2 Principal's Coffee 6:30 PM
PTA Meeting 7:30 PM

7-8 Student Holiday—Parent/Teacher Conferences

19 Fall Harvest Festival 10 AM to 2 PM

PTA Information Book

Look for the new information notebook under the volunteer computer in the school office. If you need to look at old flyers, PTA meeting minutes, *Hunters Horn* issues, *Mustang Message* issues, our local unit by-laws, or the Directory, please look for them there. There will also be copies of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs monthly newsletters, and a copy of the National PTA Magazine "Our Children" (which is also available by subscription through www.pta.org or by calling 800-307-4782).

We Appreciate . . .

Bus Driver/Crossing Guard Appreciation is this week! October 17–21 is National School Bus Safety Week and Hunters Woods is celebrating too. Remember to give thanks to your bus driver for his/her dedication day in and day out. Also, stop by to thank Bob Gilmore, our very own Crossing Guard. He keeps traffic flowing smoothly for all those buses and is outside rain or shine. A note, picture, or just a word of thanks would be appreciated.

2nd Annual Pumpkin Drop-Off

Kiss-n-Ride drivers only: Please bring your "used" (carved, cracked, even caving in) jack-o-lanterns for composting at school on the mornings of Thursday and Friday, November 3rd and 4th. Simply have them ready in your trunk, the back of your minivan, or securely bagged for your student to hand out the car window, and I'll put them in our school compost bins for "recycling" into free, organic garden soil amendment. Mom nature will work with the weather, the worms, and other resident decomposers to prepare a nice mix of compost that we can use months from now in our vegetable and bulb beds at Hunters Woods.

Last year we collected 85 pumpkins—enough to stuff our three compost bins to capacity and beyond. Can we beat that number this year?

Please remove all candles, candleholders, and anything else not part of the pumpkin before drop-off. —Catherine Linberg

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 and use our ID number, 103834, when ordering.

Innisbrook orders placed through school envelopes will be waiting in your child's classroom at Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 7th and 8th. Volunteers are needed to deliver giftwrap to classrooms on November 4th, so please e-mail giftwrap@hunterswoodspta.org if you can help.

Health Screening

Can you help the Clinic Staff when they perform vision and hearing screenings for our youngest students on November 9th and 10th? If so, please contact the clinic at 703-262-7410.

Help The Homeless

What: Help the Homeless Walkathon

Where: Hunters Woods Elementary School

When: Sunday, October 23, 2005 at 2:00 PM, 2–2:30 PM is on-site registration

Why: To support the Reston Interfaith activities for the homeless

How: Register for the Walkathon by Oct 19th: \$25 for adults, \$15 for youth

Come on the walk without registration. Cost of a t-shirt without registration is \$5.

Reston Interfaith, a community based non-profit organization, operates the Laurel Learning Center and the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston. It will receive all funds collected through registration fees as well as matching funds (up to \$25,000) from the Fannie Mae Foundation.

Registration forms are in the Tuesday folders, and additional forms will be available via e-mail and at the office. Please give completed registration forms to the class teacher. T-shirts are ensured on the day of the walk for registrations received by October 19th. The walk will be around 30 to 45 minutes. Children, toddlers, wagons, and strollers are welcome. Please come and support your community.

How Many Bulbs Can You Plant?

Our fall planting of spring-flowering bulbs will be held on Saturday, November 12, from 9 AM to 12 noon. Please plan on joining us, the Outdoor Beautification group of the PTA, for a morning of fairly strenuous labor (much depends on the power of our tools and the condition of the soil that day). This is a workday for grown-ups, with no planned activities for the children. Bring your own gloves, any preferred hand tools, and let's prepare for a great show of color next spring! Our bulbs were once again purchased by the Hunters Woods PTA from Langston Hughes Middle School.

Language Learners Needed!

FLEX is an after school language education program, which is short of students in Beginning French and Beginning Italian. A few more students are needed so we can offer these classes. Any interested students in Grades 1–6 can contact Maya Skaff at 703-264-9803 or flex@hunterswoodspta.org.

Visual Art Volunteers

The Visual Art Department is in search of people willing to help an hour a week with some of our youngest artists. Kindergarten and first grades are our age groups that have the greatest need for assistance. They meet from Tuesday through Friday from 1:00–2:00. If you have a preschooler who you need to bring along in order to volunteer we would be happy to have them join in. The kids benefit so much from extra helping hands and encouraging words.

We have one-time opportunities for special projects and hanging artwork. Contact Lisa.Foley@fcps.edu or call 703-262-7431 to have your name added to our list, then we'll call to see if you are available when projects come up. We are looking for old, clean, adult-sized T-shirts and clean glass baby food jars (lids optional). Thanks for all that you do for our school! Items can be dropped off in either art room.