

Hunters Horn

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President's Message

Maureen Becker

Those long days of summer are a thing of the past and fall has arrived which means sports, homework, and music lessons. Life can get so busy that you don't know where the time goes. The PTA has planned family activities for your family to take some time and have some fun together. On Friday Oct. 19, from 7 to 9 PM, there's the Sock Hop with a night of twisting and hula hooping. On November 17th there's the Fall Harvest Festival. This is a great time for everyone; games, cake walk, raffles, cotton candy, pizza, and more! Come out, have a good time with your children, and support your PTA!

The partnership between parents and teachers is an important component to the success of our students and school. At Hunters Woods, everyone—parents, guardians, aunts, uncles, grandparents—is encouraged to be involved. Whether you are looking for a once-a-week, once-in-a-while, or once-a-year opportunity, we have something for you. To be informed of what volunteer opportunities there are, make sure to sign up for "Keep In Touch" at the school or PTA website, <http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/HuntersWoodsES/> or <http://www.hunterswoodspta.org/index.htm>. Also, watch for fliers coming home in your students' Tuesday folders, read the PTA newsletter, and come to the PTA meetings. All these resources will help you find the opportunity that is right for you.

One way the PTA helps support our students is through the mini-grant program. The PTA has set aside \$12,000 this year for teachers to apply for materials or activities to enhance the curriculum at Hunters Woods. So far this year the PTA has funded aprons for the art classes, science materials for 5th grade, incentive material for the SCA, a new spotlight, and classroom activities for student to use when the days become too cold to go outside for recess. We hope to see more requests for mini-grants in the coming months.

Enjoy of the lovely fall weather, and I hope to see your families having fun together soon!

October Events

- 15–19** Custodial & Cafeteria Staff Appreciation Week
- 17** School Picture Day
- 19** Sock Hop, 7–9 PM

November Events

- 1–2** Compost your pumpkins at Kiss-n-Ride, AM only
- 5–6** Student Holidays
Parent/Teacher conferences
Sally Foster pick-up
- 7** Principal's Coffee, 6:30 PM
PTA Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 17** Fall Harvest Festival, 11 AM–2 PM
- 21** 2-hour Early Dismissal, 1:15 PM
- 22–23** Thanksgiving Holidays
- 28** Fall Picture Make-Up Day
- 29** Math & Technology Night

Sock Hop: Dance Fun Friday

Get ready to do "The Twist," "Shake, Rattle & Roll," and "Rock Around the Clock" at this year's 50's Sock Hop on Friday, October 19th from 7 to 9 PM. Boys slick back your hair and cuff your jeans. Girls dust off your saddle shoes and get out the poodle skirts, it's time to rock-n-roll! Parent volunteers are needed that night to help. Please e-mail sockhop@HuntersWoodsPTA.org if you can help.

HWES Odyssey of the Mind Teams

Odyssey of the Mind is now forming teams for the 2007–08 season and will be contacting people later this month. Students in all grades are still welcome to join. Parents are encouraged (and needed) to volunteer for this effort, too. Please e-mail Odyssey@HuntersWoodsPTA.org for more information.

HWES Word Masters Gearing Up

HWES Word Masters teams for 4th, 5th, and 6th grades are still looking for a few fun-loving, wordy parents to lead teams for the 2007–08 season. Word Masters teaches analogies while expanding vocabulary. It is a game-like, low-key effort which meets 15 hours a year. Children in grades 3–6 can also still sign up. Please e-mail WordMaster@HuntersWoodsPTA.org for more information.

Help Needed for Fall Harvest Festival

Handy with craft projects? Just love the glitter and glue? We'll then we have a job for you. The Fall Harvest Festival is looking for one or two crafty folks to help staff the craft table at the Fall Harvest Festival. All the major prep work is being done ahead of time but we need someone to take charge of the table on the actual day of the event and run it from beginning to end. The Fall Harvest Festival is on Saturday, November 17th. The volunteer for this position would need to help with set-up on Friday afternoon and show up around 10 AM on Saturday to manage the crafts until the festival is over at 2 PM. You will have other volunteers helping you out. If this sounds like something you can take on, please contact Kelly Kroll or Jennifer Davis Heffner at harvest@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.

Baked Goods Needed!

Custodian and Cafeteria Worker Appreciation Week is October 15–19. Let's Say "Thanks!" to our Custodians and Cafeteria Workers this Week! Please bring in your favorite baked goods on **Thursday, October 18th** to treat these special members of our Hunters Woods family and thank them for all they do to make our school a clean and healthy place to work and learn! Baked goods may be dropped off any time before 10 AM in the Cafeteria. Thanks!"

Fourth Annual Drive-Thru Pumpkin Drop-Off

Kiss-n-Ride morning 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 1st and 2nd. 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 we’ll put them into our school compost barrels for “recycling” into free, organic garden soil amendment.

Our good friend Mother Nature will work with the weather, the worms, and other resident decomposers to prepare a nice mix of compost that we can use in the Springtime in our school vegetable and flower beds. Last year we collected over 155 pumpkins—enough to fill our composters to capacity and beyond! Can we beat that number this year? Please remove all candles, candleholders, and anything else not part of the pumpkin(s) before drop-off. And thanks!

Catherine Linberg, Outdoor Beautification Chair

PTA Is a Family Thing

This year the Virginia PTA adopted as its theme “The PTA Is a Family Thing” and we fully agree—although Parents and Teachers are mentioned in our title, the students are the main focus of our interest and the beneficiaries of our work and funding. We currently have 372 out of the 754 families at Hunters Woods supporting our PTA. We’d love to get that number to 100% this year!

When your family joins the PTA it is helping to fund programs at Hunters Woods that enrich our children’s education, such as: distance learning, field trips, primary science fair, 4th grade Colonial Days, 5th grade science enrichment materials, artist-in-residence, after-school activities and FLEX classes, book fairs, Poetry Alive, and grade-wide and school-wide assemblies.

All of these wonderful opportunities are open to members and non-members alike. PTA membership, while strongly encouraged, is optional and does have its privileges. Including, this year, as a PTA member, your family will receive one complimentary copy of the Student Directory. Of course, the most important part of membership, as always, is supporting our students at Hunters Woods!

A portion of the family membership also pays dues, as required, to the national PTA, Virginia PTA and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs. Among other benefits, members of these organizations are allowed to vote in local PTA matters. Each family membership in the Hunters Woods PTA includes one adult membership in these organizations. If another member of your household would like to join the national PTA, Virginia PTA and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, additional adult memberships are available at cost (\$2.75).

Your opportunity (i.e. new membership forms) to help us reach our 100% family participation goal is coming in Tuesday folders soon!

Sally Foster Thanks!

Thank you for supporting our school’s Sally Foster fundraiser by purchasing from the catalog and website, and also for volunteering with the many aspects of making this a successful fundraiser (we couldn’t have done it without you). Your support provides funds for the many programs of our PTA.

Orders will arrive at the school on Friday, November 2. Beginning at 10 AM, we will need all the volunteers we can get to help sort and deliver the order boxes to classrooms. If you are available, please let us know by e-mailing giftwrap@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.

If you missed the opportunity to purchase Sally Foster products during our catalog sale or just wish you had purchased more, it is not too late! SallyFoster.com is open throughout the year, and our school can still earn 50% on all orders placed on our behalf. It is simple: just go to www.sallyfoster.com to view the products and place your order. At the checkout screen, key in our account #142037. Enjoy the convenience of ordering online as well as helping our school. Orders of \$60 or more have no shipping charges.

Tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers about www.sallyfoster.com. Don’t forget your out-of-town relatives!

*Cathy Ubrig, Nancy Mamros, and Eleanor Weis,
Gift Wrap Co-Chairs*

Mark Your Calendars!



Fall Harvest Festival

**Saturday November 17th
11 AM – 2 PM**

Games	Prizes
Crafts	Cake Walk
Face Painting	Raffles
Cotton Candy	Popcorn
Pizza	and More!

We will need baked goods, cakes, and lots and lots of volunteers! More information will be sent home in the Tuesday folders on October 23rd.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Kelly Kroll or Jennifer Davis-Heffner at harvest@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.