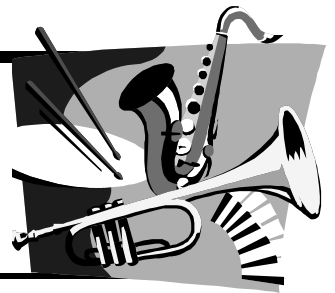


Hunters Horn

September 2005

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President's Message

Cathy Uhrig

Welcome back to Mrs. Olivia Toatley. We look forward to seeing you back in our halls as our new principal! Thank you to Dr. MaryAnn Chung for keeping us going in the absence of a permanent principal. We wish you well as you continue in your "retirement."

The school year is off to a great beginning. Thanks to the hard work of our wonderful school staff, the year started smoothly. Many thanks to all the PTA volunteers whose efforts made our first events fun and successful. One month into the school year the PTA has already: run the Open House pizza picnic, produced and sold school calendars, sold hundreds of PTA memberships, offered new and returning styles of school apparel, distributed hundreds of school supply kits, offered classroom parent volunteer sign-ups in the classrooms, stuffed the first Tuesday folders, and catered the wonderful Welcome Back Breakfast for the teachers.

The Volunteer Coordinators have been busy planning for the coming year. If you haven't signed up for volunteer activities through Keep in Touch or filled out your purple volunteer sign-up sheet, it's not too late! The school marquee has been kept up to date, the gardens tended, this newsletter published, and at meetings the Hospitality Committee has quietly helped make everyone feel welcome. Our new webmaster, Kelly Midura, has been busy. Take a moment and go to www.hunterswoodspta.org to find information about PTA activities and contacts. The wide variety of successful activities is only possible because of the work of our dedicated volunteers.

Tuesday folders are full to bursting this time of year. Starting

next week, we're implementing an Oldest & Only system to reduce wasted paper. You should have received flyers for: After-School Activities, School Directory, Directory Advertising, Apparel Sales, Calendar Sales, Odyssey of the Mind, *Honk* (the play), Grocery Rebates, Membership, Volunteer Opportunities, and Innisbrook Gift Wrap. If you missed any of these flyers or are interested in getting more information, use the website's "Officers and Committees" link to find the appropriate email address. PTA committee chairs will be happy to help you. If you can't find the information you are seeking, contact me at president@hunterswoodspta.org, or call me at 703-620-9462.

The first PTA meeting of the school year was well attended. It's great to see familiar faces, and exciting to see new ones. Our new members are jumping right in: and some have even signed up to be committee chairs! I encourage everyone to continue attending PTA meetings—and next month bring a friend. The next PTA meeting is Wednesday, October 5 at 7:30 PM. Parents are invited to a special farewell reception beforehand for Mr. Hockett, at 6:30 PM. Two weeks ago, all the students said their farewells at school. Please bring your appetite, hugs and best wishes; but leave the children at home.

Last week, you received a yellow copy of the PTA Proposed Budget for this school year, along with a letter of explanation. A committee of volunteers put the budget together over the summer from the PTA. At back-to-school nights, a quorum of the PTA members is available, and so we will vote on the proposed budget. Members who attend both back-to-school nights: please remember to vote only once. Take some time to read the letter and look at the income that the PTA generates and the various school projects and programs we fund throughout the year.

Plan on joining us at our upcoming fall events noted in the calendar at left—everyone is welcome! Enjoy all that our school has to offer, and please volunteer when you can. Along with a new year comes a new chance to do good things for our students.

September Events

- 27** Grades K-3 Parent Coffee 6 PM
Grades K-3 Back-to-School Night 7 PM
- 28** Grades 4-6 Parent Coffee 6 PM
Grades 4-6 Back-to-School Night 7 PM
- 30** Innisbrook Gift wrap Order Deadline

October Events

- 4** Chick-fil-A Fundraiser 5-8 PM
- 5** Parents' Reception for Steve Hockett 6:30 PM
PTA Meeting 7:30 PM
- 10** No School—Columbus Day
- 11** Individual School Picture Day
- 14** Sock Hop 7 PM

November Events

- 7-8** No School—Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 19** Fall Harvest Festival

Gift Wrap Extension!

Please don't forget to support our school through our gift-wrap fundraiser. Catalogs were sent home in your child's Tuesday folder on September 13th. **Innisbrook gift-wrap orders will be accepted through Friday, September 30th.** Volunteers are needed to help tally orders on Thursday the 29th and Friday the 30th. If you can help please send an email to Giftwrap@hunterswoodspta.org. Or contact Janice Bako at 703-715-0001 or Glenda Miesner 703-620-0348.

Innisbrook orders will be waiting in your child's classroom at Parent/Teacher Conferences on November fourth and fifth. Orders may be placed online throughout the year at www.innisbrook.com. Please use Hunters Woods' ID number, 103834, when ordering online.

Safety Concerns?

Look for new Safety information at the Back-to-School Night presentations tonight and tomorrow night at 7 PM.

Attention: Photographers, Artists, Writers, Musicians

Hunters Woods will be participating in the PTA National Contest called "Reflections." This national contest is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme. This year's theme is "I Wonder Why..." Remember, students can enter as many entries as they want—and in all four categories! Guidelines and deadlines will be distributed in the upcoming weeks. Contact Jody Wolfe at 703-715-0923, Jane Kolb at 703-758-8018, or e-mail us at Reflections@HuntersWoodsPTA.org with any questions or comments.

Appreciative? Show It!

Want to join the best committee at Hunters Woods? The Staff Appreciation Committee is responsible for spreading joy and happiness wherever we go! We do this by recognizing the hard work, commitment, and dedication that the teachers and staff at Hunters Woods provide each day for our children. Join us for the first Staff Appreciation Committee meeting on September 28th from 2 to 3 PM in the Black Box Theatre to discuss October events.

The "Appreciation" dates have changed a bit from last year, so we will be celebrating Cafeteria/Custodian Appreciation Week from October 11–14 and Bus Driver Appreciation the following week, October 17–21. Please mark your calendars with these important dates and join us in spreading joy!

This committee asks you to give only what you can . . . help with one event or help with them all! You may join the committee by signing up on KIT or by contacting Joan Lynch at 703-758-1586 or joan.lynch1@verizon.net.

Did You Know . . .

As a member of the PTA, you are part of one of the largest lobbying groups in the nation? At Hunters Woods we have a large and active PTA that cares about and provides for ALL our children. However, our work on behalf of children does not stop at the school boundary. Every year, the PTA on a state and national level develops and lobbies for legislation that directly affects children locally, statewide, and nationally. The items being lobbied for are known as the PLP, or Proposed Legislative Program. Before being brought to the state level, the items are voted on locally.

The 2006 PLP includes several important Legislative Action Items and Policy Statements, including restricting the sale to minors of music, computer, video games and other media with mature ratings; expanding education initiatives; waivers to the No Child Left Behind Act for schools meeting the SOL requirements; and policies regarding gang violence. For a complete discussion of these items—including the rationale behind their development, please see the Hunters Woods PTA website at www.hunterswoodspta.org.

The Hunters Woods PTA will vote on the 2006 PLP at the next PTA meeting, which is scheduled for October 5. So please come be an advocate for children; and remember, "Your VOTE is your VOICE." *Stephanie Grubbs*

Take a Stroll

The Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia (EFVA) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1978 to PROMOTE AWARENESS about epilepsy and PROVIDE ASSISTANCE to Virginians with epilepsy, and their families, friends, employers, co-workers, and teachers. Over the years, EFVA has developed a wide range of programs and services to promote the understanding of epilepsy and to dispel the many myths still associated with the disorder.

The EFVA is holding four strolls statewide on Saturday, November 5. The local walk is at Lake Fairfax and will offer 1- and 2.5-mile courses. Registration begins at 9 AM. Walkers may collect optional donations (walkers collecting \$25 or more get a free t-shirt.) Kids are invited to make a poster about the importance of wearing a helmet. One of the main known causes of epilepsy is head injury, so the EFVA works to promote bike safety awareness by encouraging kids to wear properly fitting helmets. The posters will be displayed along the walk route.

Hope you can join us for an educational and enjoyable stroll on November 5!
Deborah Lannen

Chick-fil-A

Come, eat, have fun, AND raise money for Hunters Woods programs! Tuesday, October 4, from 5 to 8 PM, 10% of all proceeds (eat-in, carry-out, or drive-through) will be donated to Hunters Woods. Put your flyer (included today) on your refrigerator; and on October 4, instead of opening the fridge for dinner, come to Chick-fil-A!

Lost & Found

Please mark your child's last name (first, too, if your name is common) on anything that might be removed during the school day. Marked items will be returned to their classroom; unmarked items are stored for a while in the Lost & Found closet near the back music room. Looking for a particular item? E-mail Lost@HuntersWoodsPTA.org with details.

Grounds Workday a Success

Last Saturday we had a dozen people come out, contributing nearly 30 person-hours to the beautification of our grounds and gardens. We bagged up 27 bags of seedy and aggressive weeds for composting off site, topped off our compost bins, and generally spruced up our entire exterior campus. Many thanks to Clara Johnson for opening the building and making the restrooms available for those of us there for the long haul.

A special feature of the day was the mid-morning visit of a busload of 28 birders, environmentalists, and dignitaries on tour with Audubon at Home, a project of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. They were out viewing places where the natural environment is being preserved and enhanced. Our meadow and the butterfly garden on the hill behind the science labs were especially interesting to them. Their group was complete with photojournalists and a reporter from the *Washington Post*. We'll see if we "make the papers"—it's too early to know as of this *Hunters Horn* deadline.

Thanks to all the PTA members and friends who helped out!

Catherine Linberg