



# Hunters Horn



PTA Newsletter • Volume 43, Issue 9 • June 7, 2011

## President's Message

**To all our Students and Families - Have an Excellent Summer!!** I should save that part for last, but I am excited too!! Sun and pool and fun is awaiting us all. Before we shake off our school clothes and dump our backpacks, though, we need to reflect on all of those people who have made this year such a special experience for our children.

I would like to thank the outgoing Committee Chairs and Board Officers, who have spent years working on programs and are really the strength behind our PTA:

- Kelly Rowell and Susan Sather - too many jobs to list!
- Kelly Horton-Geer - PTA website!!
- Cynthia Cook - Hunters Horn newsletter.
- Laura Bhadra - Chess and Wordmasters.
- Lisa Groves - Decorator/museum curator and FISH.
- Kathy Calloway - After School Programs.
- Laura Gerry - Play.
- Karen Browning - Tuesday Folders.
- Paige Baldwin - Yearbook.
- Kelly Kroll - Bingo and Fall Harvest Festival.
- Cheryl Finley and Jessica Lewis - International Night.
- Sandy Angel - Grocery receipts.
- Shreeti Kapoor - Book Fair.
- Courtney Wilson - Odyssey of the Mind.

I also want to thank and welcome all the returning and new volunteers who are making up our wonderful 2011-2012 team of PTA volunteers!

We could still use your help . . . Check out the Summer Volunteers Opportunities, Fall Harvest Festival, After School Activities and Reflections articles later in this newsletter; look at our website, [www.hwpta.org](http://www.hwpta.org), under Volunteers, for descriptions of other opportunities; or contact Jeri Thomas at [VP4@hwpta.org](mailto:VP4@hwpta.org) to find out how you can volunteer at the school.

Again, have a safe and wonderful summer! Please contact me anytime if you have questions or suggestions - yes, even over the summer! - at [president@hwpta.org](mailto:president@hwpta.org).

*Jennifer Arakelian, PTA President*

## Lost and Found Is Full

The HWES Lost and Found is overflowing. All items will be on display **June 7, 8 and 9** in the entrance area outside the cafeteria. Evening performances will be going on during this time, so please stop by day or night and look for any items that you may be missing. Over the past few weeks, every effort has been made to return all items with a name in them. After this week's display, all unclaimed items will be washed and donated to charity. If you have any questions, please contact [lost@hwpta.org](mailto:lost@hwpta.org).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

June 7-9:	Lost and Found Display
Tuesday, June 7:	Grades 4-6 String Perf.; PTA Expense Requests Due!
Wednesday, June 8:	Grades 4-6 Band Perf;
Thursday, June 9:	Grades 4-6 Chorus Perf.; Meet LHMS Principal 6:30
Friday, June 10:	Adventure Day; PTA Parent Survey Response Deadline
Monday, June 13:	PTA Turnover Dinner
Tuesday, June 14:	Adventure Day Rain Date
Friday, June 17:	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Advancement
Monday, June 20:	Class Parties
Tuesday, June 21:	Last day of school - dismissal 11:10 am
Thursday, June 30:	School supply orders due

## Hunters Horn Readers' Contest

**You have to read this newsletter to win!** Look for a few randomly selected students' names embedded in articles of the Hunters Horn. If you see your child's name in brackets, e.g., [First Last], let us know and you will win a Hunters Woods spirit T-shirt for your child! To collect your child's prize, please send an email to [newsletter@hwpta.org](mailto:newsletter@hwpta.org) with your name and your child's name, teacher's name and desired T-shirt size. 📧

## PTA Expense Requests Due Today!

The Hunters Woods PTA's fiscal year ends on June 30, 2011. If you haven't already done so, please submit your requests for reimbursements for any outstanding expenses incurred for PTA business **BY TODAY, Tuesday, June 7**. It is important that all expenses for this school year be recorded in this school year's records.

Thank you for your cooperation throughout the year and for all the work you all do. As always, for any questions, please contact Doug Kaspar, PTA Treasurer, at [treasurer@hwpta.org](mailto:treasurer@hwpta.org). 📧

## Summer Volunteer Opportunities

For many of us, summer is a time that is not quite as busy as during the school year. If you can, please consider helping out with some of the summer PTA volunteer opportunities.

• **Gardening** - We need gardeners to water our student plots as well as a new seating area in the front of the school. Chris Jennings, a former HWES student, has generously chosen Hunters Woods as his Eagle Scout Community Project and will be building a new seating area and planting shrubs that will need to be cared for over the summer. Please sign up to help! If we all take a day or week, we can share the load and ensure that our gardens survive the hot summer months. Sign up at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/summer303>

- *More Summer Opportunities, ctd. on p. 2*

- Summer Opportunities, ctd. from p. 1

• **Open House Social** - Every year, the PTA welcomes our students and families back to school with snacks at the meet-your-teacher event for the new school year. For the 2011-2012 school year, the event will be held on September 1 (the Thursday before school starts). We need two volunteers to co-chair the event and create a signup page for other volunteers. This is a one time, limited commitment volunteer job! [Jared Tankel] Please consider helping with this wonderful tradition! Contact: Jeri Thomas, VP of Volunteers, to volunteer or for more information, at [VP4@hwpta.org](mailto:VP4@hwpta.org).

• **Back-to-School Teacher Meal** - We need two co-chairs to help out with our welcome back-to-school meal that we hold for our teachers and staff when they return for the start of the new school year (before school starts for students, the week before Labor Day). This job includes decorating the cafeteria for the meal, soliciting donations from HW families, buying any food to supplement the donations, and coordinating volunteers to help at the meal. This is a great way to get to know all the teachers and staff and is a one time, limited commitment volunteer job! To volunteer or for more information, please contact Jeri Thomas, VP of Volunteers, at [VP4@hwpta.org](mailto:VP4@hwpta.org).

• **First Tuesday Folders** - Marina Matthes has generously offered to head up a PTA team of volunteers during the late August weeks to prepare the school folders for the new school year 2011-2012. Each year, the First Tuesday Folders contain vital information and forms that you need to fill out for your student for FCPS and for the PTA. This is a great opportunity to come in and chat with the administrators, get to know some of the PTA members, and get a sneak peak at all the important information that comes home in that first Tuesday folder. Please consider helping out during the week before school starts to prepare our students for success! Want to volunteer or do you have students who need community service hours? Contact Marina at [firsttuesday@hwpta.org](mailto:firsttuesday@hwpta.org) to help! 🍷

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### Read This Summer!

The Hunters Woods Library will be open during the month of July on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and noon. All Hunters Woods students are encouraged to participate in the HWES summer reading program. More details about this year's program will be in the school's June *Mustang Message*.

Rising sixth and seventh graders are required to read at least one book over summer vacation. Check out recommended reading lists for rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders at:

<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/readlist/78.htm> and

for rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders at:

<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/readlist/6.htm>. 🍷

### Survey Response Date Extended

The deadline for responding to our PTA Parent Education survey has been extended to this **Friday, June 10**. If you've already filled it out, thank you! If you haven't had a chance to fill out the short survey yet, please take a moment to do so! Your feedback will drive our newly-launched parent education initiative next year at Hunters Woods Elementary School. Our goal is to provide resources, networking, and an educational speaker series to support parents and caregivers in the areas they need the most. We need to hear from you, so we can shape our programs to serve your needs.

You can complete the survey (available in English and Spanish) online at [www.hwpta.org](http://www.hwpta.org) or fill out the form that was sent home in your child's Tuesday folder. Please contact [community@hwpta.org](mailto:community@hwpta.org) if you have any questions or would like to become involved in this exciting new initiative. Thank you! 🍷

### Meet Hughes Principal

The PTA at Langston Hughes Middle school has a special invitation for the parents of rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders. On **Thursday, June 9**, from 6:30 – 7pm, the LHMS PTA will host a special meeting for those parents to come and meet the school principal, Aimee Monticchio. If you'd like the opportunity to join us, meet Aimee, and ask any questions that you may have about life at Hughes Middle School, we hope to see you then.

At 7pm, the LHMS PTA will be have its last meeting of the 2010/11 school year, and you are welcome to stay and meet the current members as we celebrate a terrific year and recognize special students and volunteers in the Hughes community. We look forward to a special night and the opportunity to welcome the new parents to Hughes! If you have any questions, contact LHMS PTA President Kathy Joyner at [president@lhmspta.com](mailto:president@lhmspta.com).

### School Supplies Return

Hunters Woods PTA is working with 1<sup>st</sup> Day School Supplies to provide, as a service\* to our Hunters Woods school families, the ability to order the required school supplies for the 2011-2012 school year ALL ONLINE! No paper orders necessary! Orders must be placed by **Thursday, June 30**.

Simply visit the 1<sup>st</sup> Day School Supply website at [http://www.1stdayschoolsupplies.com/list.php?school\\_zip=20191](http://www.1stdayschoolsupplies.com/list.php?school_zip=20191), select your student(s) grade(s) and the appropriate pre-populated lists will appear. If you already have something that is on the list and don't want to order another, you simply deselect that item and your total cost will go down. When you have finished reviewing your order, confirm it and go through the payment process. *Voila!*, you are done - until school starts in the fall, when the supplies will magically show up at school ready for your student(s) to start the new year! 🍷

*\*The PTA is offering this sale as a service to our HWES families. The supplies are offered at cost, and neither the school nor the PTA is making a profit from the sale.*

♥ **TEACHER FEATURE!** ♥

*Sixth in a series of articles written by HWES students to spotlight some of the many fantastic teachers who make our school such a great place to be. Special thanks to 2<sup>nd</sup> grader John Evans and 4<sup>th</sup> grader Kathryn Evans for contributing this article!*

**Karen Richards, K/1 Teacher**

Mrs. Richards is a nice teacher. Here are some things you may not know about her! Mrs. Richards' favorite ice cream is vanilla fudge swirl. When Mrs. Richards was a student, her favorite teacher was named Mr. Lynch; she liked him because he was just so excited about everything! Her favorite class in school was art, but she did not like economics.

In her spare time, Mrs. Richards likes to garden and take walks along the paths in Reston. Gardening is a hobby we didn't know she had! Her favorite book to read is *Harry Potter*, and her favorite TV show is *Law and Order*. On weekends, she likes to sleep (me too!) If she could be any animal, she would be a bear (eat eat sleep sleep sleep!)

Mrs. Richards' birthday is in November. She grew up in a lot of places but mostly Switzerland and New York. She went to college at C.W. Post in New York. When Mrs. Richards was growing up, she wanted to be an artist. Now that she's a teacher, we like that she does lots of artsy things with her students in class!

Mrs. Richards has been a teacher for six years and has been working at Hunters Woods for ten years. She decided to become a teacher, because she thinks it is the most important job in the world! We are glad she did - we think she is an awesome teacher! ♥

**Music Information For Rising Grades 4-6**

All Hunters Woods students in grades 4-6 participate in a performing ensemble of their choice. This year the options were Alto Sax, Baritone, Bass Clarinet, Bell Kit/Percussion, Cello, Chorus, Clarinet, Flute, French Horn, Oboe, String Bass, Tenor Sax, Trombone, Trumpet/Cornet, Tuba, Viola, and Violin. Students must have a year of clarinet or flute before choosing saxophone, and cello experience is recommended for those choosing String Bass.

The HW music team suggests renting instruments from a music store that has a "rent to own" program (see box at the right). They strongly advise AGAINST buying instruments for beginners. They also recommend AGAINST renting or purchasing over the internet. Instruments purchased at most big box retailers are NOT quality instruments and will frustrate your child.

Band & Orchestra Camps are a GREAT way to make a lot of progress over the summer. Information and applications for two local camps can be found on the PTA webpage at: <http://www.hwpta.org/summer/index.htm>.

**NEW! Summer Fitness & Nutrition Programs**

Did you hear the news? The PTA has formed a new Fitness and Nutrition Committee! As our first "get up and go" activity, we would like to challenge you and your student to MOVE IT all summer long! See the back page of the newsletter for a Mighty Mustang MOVE IT Program log to keep track of your student's activity during the summer. You can also download extra copies of the log and certificate from the PTA webpage at [www.hwpta.org](http://www.hwpta.org). Return your student log by **September 14** and win a fantastic back-to-school prize!!

To help our students have a healthy summer, we also will have an incentive program at the local Smart Markets Reston Farmer's Market, held on Wednesdays at the corner of Colts Neck Rd. and Sunrise Valley Rd. from 3:30 to 7:00 pm. Students will be able to pick up a punch card at the market starting **Wednesday, June 8**. If they have all their holes punched, they will receive a yummy and healthy surprise from the market in September. More details to come . . . In the meantime, [Parv Ahuja] you can visit [www.smartmarkets.org](http://www.smartmarkets.org) for information about the market.

If you are interested in participating in the new Fitness and Nutrition Committee, please contact [fitness@hwpta.org](mailto:fitness@hwpta.org). And watch out in the coming school year for other new and exciting ways to encourage your student to be active and healthy! 🍷

**We Appreciate You!**

Thank you to everyone for a successful Teacher Appreciation Week in April! With our "adopt a specialist" program this year, we were able to show our appreciation for all of our educators. A huge thank you to our room parents and to the "foster parents" who coordinated this very special week, as well as to all of the Hunters Woods families who supported the week's activities. We are so lucky to have such fabulous students, families and staff!

We are considering some changes for next year's teacher appreciation week! If you have any ideas, please send them to [roomparents@hwpta.org](mailto:roomparents@hwpta.org). Thank you!! 🍷

**Local music stores that rent instruments:**

- Reston Music - (703) 476-8809 - <http://www.restonmusic.com>
- Chantilly Music, Inc. - 703-222-8986 - <http://www.restonmusic.com/locations.php>
- Herndon Music Loft - 703-956-6563 - <http://www.themusicloftonline.com>
- Oakton Music & Arts - 703-281-0400 - <http://www.musicarts.com>
- Chantilly Music & Arts - 703-817-1000 - <http://www.contemporarymusiccenter.com>
- Falls Church Foxes Music Company - 703-533-7393 - <http://www.foxesmusic.com>
- Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center - 301-946-8808 - <http://www.washingtonmusic.com/rentals.asp>

**Fall Harvest Festival - It's Back!**

That's right, the annual PTA Fall Harvest Festival is coming back next fall, and it promises to be better than ever! We want to give a very special thanks to Susan Sather, who has volunteered to chair the PTA Committee for the 2011 Fall Harvest Festival.

We are looking for additional volunteers; in particular we are looking for people to help coordinate the set up of the games as well as general committee members who can meet over the summer to plan an October event. If you would be interested in joining the 2011 Fall Harvest Festival Committee and helping to shape this very popular family fun event for our Hunters Woods families next fall, please email [harvest@hwpta.org](mailto:harvest@hwpta.org).

**PTA Reflections Program**

Looking for a way to help recognize the creative talents of our students? You can, by serving as the Hunters Woods coordinator for the prestigious PTA Reflections program during the 2011-12 school year. As Reflections chair, you will help publicize the start of the program in September, collect and coordinate the judging of student entries in various fields such as literature and visual arts by late October, and then stay in touch with the coordinators of the higher level judging as needed. If you think you would like to take on this role or just would like more information about the program, please email [reflections@hwpta.org](mailto:reflections@hwpta.org) and [Aurora Eddy] visit <http://www.ptareflections.org/>.

**After School Activities**

Many parents responded to our survey to let us know that After School Activities are one of their favorite PTA programs at Hunters Woods, but we need YOUR HELP. We have one co-chair and are looking for second co-chair to join this committee and help coordinate the after-school activities program for the 2011-12 school year.

The co-chairs will create the Fall and Spring Catalog of classes, contract with instructors, file Community Use forms with FCPS, deposit registration monies and create class rosters. The After School Program provides services to over 200 students a semester and is a vital part of the environment of fun and education at the school. Please consider whether this committee is something with which you could become involved. Email Jeri Thomas, VP of Volunteers for more information at [VP4@hwpta.org](mailto:VP4@hwpta.org).

**Box Tops Update**

Congratulations to Jay Do in Ms. Donnelly's 4th grade class! His Box Tops collection sheet was chosen by Ms. Toatley as our final winner of the Box Tops Collection Contest. Jay won a Class Party with a movie and Sno-cones! Thank you to all those who are clipping and submitting their Box Tops. We raised over \$1,300 this year with your help! Please continue clipping BoxTops over the summer. We will have more great contests next year!

**Odyssey of the Mind World Finals**

Hunters Woods Odyssey of the Mind team, "The Time Travelers," represented the school and the state at the recently concluded World Finals in the "Extreme Mousemobiles" Division 1 category. Out of 53 teams, the team ranked joint 4th for spontaneity, 11th for style and came in 17th overall. The team was unfortunate in that 2 of their 6 missions did not receive scores, setting them back on the long term, but it was a fantastic experience to meet over 850 teams from around the world. The judges particularly liked the team's "time machine" and the sophisticated story line!

The team had the privilege of meeting Dr. Sam Micklus, the founder of the Odyssey of the Mind program, as well as "OMER," the program's mascot! Srinidhi Nagireddy from the team had the honor of carrying the Virginia state placard at the opening ceremonies, and Juhi Gudavalli was part of the Virginia banner that was selected as one of the top nine banners at the Float and Banner parade. For more information on the program, contact [odyssey@hwpta.org](mailto:odyssey@hwpta.org).

**Mustang Pride**

Thanks to the over 200 Hunters Woods families who showed their Mustang Pride by making a donation to the Hunters Woods PTA, we were able to raise enough money to cover our expenses during the 2010-2011 school year without doing a product-sales or auction fundraiser.

Our budget was enhanced this past year by drawing down from our reserves; but as we move forward, the reserves are getting smaller, and we will have to earn more each year. If you didn't join Mustang Pride this year, please consider joining next year. The benefits to the school and the kids from the PTA's programs are great. The advantage of not having to participate in large-scale fundraising efforts is a bonus for everyone. By contributing directly to support the PTA, parents show their kids that school, educational support and the school community are valued by their family.

When school starts next year, make a commitment and show your kids that you value school, teachers, community and their educational experience. Please join the 2011-2012 Mustang Pride, and keep our PTA Fundraiser Free.

**2011-12 Slate of PTA Executive Committee Officers (Election - May 18, 2011)**

President:	Jennifer Arakelian
President Elect:	Karen Montagne
VP of Events:	Debbie Anguizola
VP of Fundraising:	Alexis Shield
VP of Technology & Communications:	Colleen Line
VP of Volunteer and Member Services:	Jeri Thomas
VP of Ways and Means:	Sridevi Settipalli
Corresponding Secretary:	Shreeti Kapoor
Recording Secretary:	Melissa Benett
Treasurer:	Doug Kasper



Hunters Woods PTA MIGHTY MUSTANG  
Summer Move It Program



## I agree to be a Move It Kid!

I will try for 60 Move It Minutes every day this summer! I know there are many ways to be active like riding my bike, walking the dog, jumping on one foot, walking up and down the stairs or helping in the garden.

What is important is that I MOVE!

Being active burns calories, strengthens muscles and is good for my entire body!

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Hunters Woods PTA MIGHTY MUSTANG

## SUMMER MOVE IT Activity Log

The PTA's Fitness and Nutrition Committee would like to help you motivate your family to MOVE IT this summer. Log your weekly minutes and WIN a great back-to-school prize! All MOVE IT Logs are due to the school office by Sept. 14th to qualify for a prize.

Week of	Activity	How Long	Parents Initials
Example	Rode my bike, went fishing, walked the dog	165 minutes	JJJ
June 27			
July 4			
July 11			
July 18			
July 15			
August 1			
August 8			
August 15			
August 22			
August 29			
September 5			



Each entry should be at least fifteen minutes of activity. Remember that activity can include walking the dog, gardening, walking to the store or the pool or even helping around the house.

