

# Hunters Horn



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## President's Message

Hello Friends of Hunters Woods,

This month I am making this a short message in an attempt to hasten your attention to the important School Budget information that follows. Please take the time to read our parent information about the budget debate and *TAKE ACTION*. We can make a difference with a small effort by each of us!

I also would like to draw your attention to the Family Fun Night and Class Basket Raffle, to be held on March 13 from 6-9pm. Teachers have sent home information on your class' theme basket. Please take the time to make a small (or large) contribution to your class' basket. The effort of making a basket for each class is simple if each family participates in a small way. If you have any questions about your class' basket, please contact your teacher and he/she will put you in contact with your class basket volunteer.

The funds that the PTA raises from the Raffle will be used to support all our students and teachers at Hunters Woods. The PTA contributes to many vital curriculum based projects, like the upcoming Science Fair. The PTA provides each primary student with a three-fold project board so that all students may fully participate and present his/her project for the entire school to see.

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the Family Fun Night to include dancing, a coffee/dessert bar and our fantastic class basket raffle! You get to take your baskets home immediately with no waiting in line, no auction - just fun for everyone! 🎶

**Susan Sather, PTA President**

President@hwpta.org

## Parent Action on Budget Crisis

**Your Help is Needed – Support Our Schools!**

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) are facing both an increase in student enrollment and, at the same time, a decrease in revenue. Unless additional funding is provided to the schools, the resulting, severe budget cuts will add up to an extensive layoff of school personnel, further increases to already large class sizes and the loss of critical programs that will profoundly alter our schools and adversely affect students and families both in the short- and long-term. We need all parents and the community to work together and take action *NOW* to support and protect our schools.

In February 2010 the Fairfax County School Board voted to adopt the FCPS FY 2011 advertised budget, preliminarily restoring some programs previously proposed for elimination in the budget. Cuts still have been made, including elimination of the fifth grade trip to the International Children's Festival, elimination of additional central office positions, and freezing salaries for all employees for the second consecutive year.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Monday, March 8</b>	Class Basket Workshop
<b>Saturday, March 13</b>	Family Fun Night with Basket Raffle, 6-9pm
<b>Thursday, March 18</b>	PTA Meeting, 7pm
<b>Thursday, March 25</b>	Career Day, 9am-2:45pm
<b>Week of Mar 26-April 2</b>	No School/Spring Break
<b>Wednesday, April 7</b>	Spring Picture Day
<b>Friday, April 9</b>	End of First Quarter
<b>Monday, April 12</b>	Snow day make-up? (TBD)
<b>Thursday, April 15</b>	PTA Meeting, 10am
<b>Week of April 19-23</b>	Office and Clinic Staff Appreciation Week
<b>Week of April 26-30</b>	Spring Book Fair
<b>Thursday, April 29</b>	Primary Science Night
<b>Monday, May 3</b>	Teacher Luncheon
<b>Week of May 3-7</b>	Teacher Appreciation Week
<b>Week of May 17-21</b>	Principal Appreciation Week
<b>Monday, May 24</b>	Volunteer Luncheon

Actual implementation of the 2011 advertised budget depends on whether FCPS receives adequate funding from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the state. Unless the Virginia General Assembly and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors act to increase revenue to FCPS, the School Board will have to revisit the advertised budget and make additional program cuts when it is time to adopt the budget this May. Those additional cuts may include, among other items, increasing class sizes, eliminating an additional 1,400 positions, and cutting a number of valuable programs, including full-day kindergarten, elementary band and strings, and foreign language immersion.

### **What Can Parents Do to Help?**

**Stay Informed.** Parents need to stay informed and be involved at both the county and state levels to advocate for full funding for our schools. For more information on the FY 2011 budget, including updates and next steps, visit [www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm) or contact the FCPS Department of Communications and Community Outreach at 571-423-1200. You can also attend a community budget presentation; a listing of these presentations is available online at [www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/communitybudgetpresentations.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/communitybudgetpresentations.pdf). The next community budget presentation is scheduled for March 3 at 7 p.m. at the Reston Community Center. Additional information is available on the HWES PTA webpage at [www.hunterswoodspta.com](http://www.hunterswoodspta.com) and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs' webpage at [www.fccpta.org/](http://www.fccpta.org/).

**Take Action.** If you are concerned about the FCPS budget crisis but not sure what to do about it, here are some steps you can take to support full funding of our schools:

- Let the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors know that you support raising the tax rate so the Board can allocate the revenue to pay for our schools. For a sample letter, visit the HWES PTA webpage at [www.hunterswoodspta.com](http://www.hunterswoodspta.com).

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- Urge Governor McDonnell and the Virginia State Legislature to fully fund our schools. Again, a sample letter is available on the PTA webpage.
- Contact the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce to request their support on this issue, which is critical to the success of our community and their businesses. (Support for this issue also aligns with the education goals listed in their 2010 Legislative Agenda.) The contact person is Robby Demeria, Vice President of Government Affairs (rdemia@fairfaxchamber.org).
- Contact the FCPS School Board and let them know you support fully funding the schools and how you feel about the proposed budget cuts; a sample letter for this is available on the HWES PTA webpage.
- Encourage neighbors, friends and family in the county to take these steps also and support our county schools.
- Share your ideas with us! Attend our next PTA meeting on March 18 at 7pm or send comments and suggestions to president@hwpta.org. 📧

## New Spelling Bee Champ

Congratulations to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual HWES Spelling Bee champion, Aline Dolinh, who is in Mr. Brody's 6th grade class. Aline's winning word at the February 4 Spelling Bee was "litany." Also included in our winner's circle were Courtney Tern (Kirlyo's class), Rayna Easley (Donnelly's class), Ronak Cuthill (Carter's class) and Ankith Rao (Walter's class).

Aline will represent our school at the Fairfax County Spelling Bee, which will be held at 2pm on March 13, 2010 at Hayfield Secondary School, and will have a chance to go on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC later this spring.

The Spelling Bee Committee would also like to thank the 14 students who competed in the T-shirt artwork design contest. Congratulations to our winner – third grader Srinidhi Nagireddy! 📧

## Spring Book Fair News

The PTA Spring Book Fair will be held during the week of April 26-30. The book fair will be located in the Second Grade Pod and will be open during school hours as well as evening hours on April 29 (during Primary Science night).

In a few weeks you will receive a list of some of the exciting books that will be available at the book fair. Each classroom will have an opportunity to visit the book fair twice during the week: once to preview the books and once to purchase (for those who wish to do so). While previewing the books, the students make a wish list to bring home to the parents. Parents and siblings are welcome to visit the fair any time during our open hours.

Bookworm provides a terrific selection of books. This is a great opportunity to come out and support the PTA. And, don't forget that teacher appreciation week is the week of May 3-7. You may want to check out the teacher wish lists and purchase some books for your teacher's classroom.

Volunteers will be needed for this event. Look out for future volunteer requests from the book fair committee, and please be sure to sign up for any time that you are available.

Thanks from the Book Fair Committee! 📧

## Career Day at HWES Needs You

It's not too late to sign up! The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hunters Woods Career Day will be held on Thursday, March 25, from 9am to 2:45pm, and volunteers are needed to share information about their careers, jobs and vocations with our students. If you can help, please send in your name, your career/job/vocation, your child(ren)'s name(s) and teacher(s), your preferred phone & email, and your availability (whether all day or specific time frames you are available) in an envelope addressed to the Hunters Woods School Counseling Department as soon as possible. You can contact our school counselors, Pat Small (Grades K-3) at Patricia.S.Small@fcps.edu or (703) 262-7475 or Garry Carter (Grades 4-6) at Garry.Carter@fcps.edu or (703) 262-7452 if you have questions or need more information. And, if you have a relative or friend in the community who would be interested in sharing information about their career with our students, please let them know about this opportunity. Our students love Career Day! 📧

## Odyssey of the Mind Tournament

### *Watch Our Students Perform!*

Eleven teams from Hunters Woods will compete in the Odyssey of the Mind tournament this weekend, March 6 at Falls Church High School. These teams have worked all year to solve a unique problem in a creative way---completely without input from adults. The problems this year include building a vehicle that travels along a nature trail, making and operating a series of aircraft that perform tricks, holding a trial where food is on trial by a jury of its peers, and creating a column structure out of balsa wood that must support weight. Younger members are performing a skit about a surprise party being held for a reason not usually celebrated.

These performances are always fascinating to watch, and Hunters Woods typically has a very strong presence at this event. There is no cost to attend. For more information on the schedule and for directions, please visit the website, [www.vaodyyssey13.org](http://www.vaodyyssey13.org). 📧

## Don't Miss It! - March Family Fun

### *Family Dance & Games Night/Basket Raffle*

This year, in place of the annual Silent Auction, the HWES PTA will be hosting a family fun night with a dance and games, to be held on Saturday, March 13, at the school. During this event we will be raffling off the amazing baskets that each of the classes have created. All benefits from the raffle will go to support Hunters Woods. This promises to be a fabulously fun event as well as a wonderful opportunity to support the school at the same time! 📧

## Help Wanted!

The PTA assists students, families, teachers and the administration by raising funds, implementing student and parent educational programs and sponsoring family activities. It takes many volunteers for the PTA to be able to continue to offer these invaluable services that so greatly benefit our school, and we need **your** help to do so. There still are many vacant PTA officer and committee chair positions at our school. Please, visit the PTA webpage at [www.hunterswoodspta.com/committees](http://www.hunterswoodspta.com/committees) to look over available positions and email volunteer@hwpta.org for more information. 📧