

# Hunters Horn

PTA Newsletter • Volume 42, Issue 7

May 4, 2010



## President's Message

In seven weeks, teachers will be packing up classrooms, parents will be preparing for class parties, and kids will be ready to enjoy their summer breaks. Between now and then, there will be SOL tests, appreciation events for teachers, principals and volunteers, orientations for incoming students, concerts and performances and much more. In just the past week, we have enjoyed the Primary Science Fair, Talent Share, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trips and the spring Book Fair.

Over the last month, an ad hoc PTA Organizing Committee has been working on cleaning, sorting and organizing all of the PTA belongings in both the PTA Office and storage closet. Sandy Angel, Jennifer Arakelian, Marina Matthes and Alexis Shield have put in hours of hard work, and the results are fantastic. Stop by the PTA office next time you're in the school to take a look. We've added a work/meeting table and folding chairs, and PTA committees now have a place to meet to plan and prepare for their activities.

Jennifer Arakelian is your incoming PTA President, and she's been stepping in to fill a number of open spaces in our PTA this month. She temporarily has worn the mantle of Room Parent Coordinator, identifying room parents for this week's Teacher Appreciations and for end of year party planning. Next year, we'd really like for there to be a dedicated Room Parent Coordinator, to offer guidance to new Room Parents as they learn to work with classroom teachers. The only qualification for this job is a willingness to email and/or call others, on your choice of schedule. Can you help?

Would you like a quieter role? If you can attend monthly PTA meetings, you could take the position of Corresponding Secretary, where your only other responsibility would be to participate in a few email votes over the course of the year, and write a few thank you notes on behalf of the PTA. Like to socialize and play hostess? The Teacher Welcome Breakfast or Open House Family Dinner would be a good fit for you. If you have any interest in helping the school through PTA involvement, please look over the list of openings in this month's newsletter and choose one today. ☺

**Susan Sather, PTA President**  
president@hwpta.org

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Week of May 3-7</b>	Teacher Appreciation Week
<b>Tues. &amp; Wed., May 11-12</b>	FCPS School Board Public Hearings (Jackson MS)
<b>Monday, May 17</b>	Rising Kindergarten Orientation
<b>Week of May 17-21</b>	Principal Appreciation Week
<b>Thursday, May 20</b>	PTA planning dinner 6pm; PTA meeting 7pm
<b>Monday, May 24</b>	Volunteer Luncheon
<b>Friday, May 28</b>	Early release
<b>Monday, May 31</b>	Memorial Day holiday
<b>Tuesday, June 8</b>	Strings concert
<b>Wednesday, June 9</b>	Band concert
<b>Thursday, June 10</b>	Chorus concert
<b>Friday, June 11</b>	Adventure Day
<b>Tuesday, June 15</b>	Adventure Day rain date
<b>Tuesday, June 22</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Advancement
<b>Wednesday, June 23</b>	Class parties
<b>Thursday, June 24</b>	Students' last day of school (early release)

## Box Tops Collection Contest

### *Winner Will Be Chosen May 14th!*

It's not too late to send in your Box Tops Collection Sheets! Each sheet earns your class a chance of winning a sno-cone and movie party! Additional collection sheets can be found on the PTA website at [www.hunterswoodspta.org](http://www.hunterswoodspta.org). Mrs. Toatley will randomly draw the winning sheet on **Friday, May 14**, and the winner will be announced on WHWE. Please continue to send in box tops after the contest ends. Thank you for your participation! ☺

## Appreciation Weeks Reminder

Teacher Appreciation Week is **this week**, and Principal Appreciation Week is the week of **May 17-21**. Please remember to take the time to express your thanks to our teachers and administration for everything they do at HWES for our children. ☺

## Final PTA Meeting in May

Come learn about all the exciting things that are going on at Hunters Woods! Please be sure to attend our last PTA meeting of the school year on **Thursday, May 20** in the school library. Listen to reports about school activities, trips and special goings on, participate in family fun event reviews and planning, and join in the discussion about teacher mini-grant requests and FCPS' ongoing budget issues. Your participation is welcomed. ☺

## Fundraising Change

The PTA is looking towards a fundamental change in the way we fundraise. We are interested in getting out of the corporate fundraising world, moving towards a donation drive for our fall fundraiser in lieu of the gift-wrap/magazine/gifts sale we've traditionally offered. With a donation drive, 100% of your donation is tax deductible; and 100% goes to our PTA.

We need a couple of parents to help decide on the details for this drive (what levels of donation will we ask for, what incentives will we offer donors, etc...). To help plan for this fundraising shift, please join us for a light dinner and planning meeting on **Thursday, May 20** at 6pm. 🍷

---

## 2010-11 FCPS Budget Update *Your Support Is Needed Now!*

Please let your voice be heard to support continued funding for the programs that are important to our children and our schools!

Here is the latest update from the April 23 edition of *The Bottom Line*, which is published by the FCPS Department of Communications and Community Outreach. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted its markup of the county budget on April 27. As of press time, the marked-up county budget includes a \$1.6 billion transfer to the schools for operations. This represents a one percent (1%) decrease from the FY 2010 transfer level, which equates to \$16.3 million in lost funding for FCPS schools for the coming school year, despite anticipated increased enrollment levels.

Your active involvement in the School Board's budget process is critical in the next few weeks. With the information on actual federal, state and county funding amounts now available, the School Board will be contemplating and making final decisions about programs and proposed cuts, in addition to the already advertised reduced services and programs for FY 2011. The School Board will hold work sessions May 10 and May 13 and public hearings on May 11 and May 12. On May 20, the Board will adopt the final FY 2011 Approved Budget, which will go into effect on July 1.

What can you do to get involved? You can learn more at the FCPS budget web site at [www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm). You can attend School Board meetings. You can write to your School Board member (contact information listed at [www.fcps.edu/schlbd/members.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd/members.htm)). And, you can speak at a School Board public hearing ([www.fcps.edu/schlbd/request\\_speak.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd/request_speak.htm)). 🍷

## PTA Help Wanted!

We need YOU! The PTA is still searching for some more volunteers to fill several open PTA officer and committee chair positions for next year:

**PTA Officers:** President Elect, VP Technology Communications (oversee eNews & Newsletter), VP Fundraising (plan types of fundraising – not run programs), and Corresponding Secretary.

**Committee Chairs:** After School Activities co-coordinator; Chess Club; Directory Production; Fall Harvest Festival co-chairs and committee members; Fall Fundraiser co-chairs and committee members; Grounds Beautification; Membership co-chairs; Reflections; Special Education; Spelling Bee; School Supplies; Staff Appreciation; and Auction Donations.

**Easy and Single Shot Events or Activities:** Calendar Magnet Design (July or August), Chalk 4 Peace, Bingo Night, Bus Driver/Crossing Guard Appreciation, Open House Family Dinner (August), and Teacher Breakfast (August).

To volunteer for one of these positions or to just find out more about what is involved, please email volunteer @hwpta.org or come to our next PTA meeting on May 20. 🍷

---

## Thank You 3 For Me Volunteers!

I just want to extend a very sincere THANK YOU to all the Three for Me Volunteers this year! As you may recall, we had a record number of Three for Me Volunteers this year, and I am proud of the level of involvement and dedication of our parents, grandparents, other family members, teachers, faculty, staff, administration, and all other special people who have pledged and given their 3 hours. Thank you! And to those of you who go beyond, who give countless hours on so many projects and in so many ways, our hats are truly off to you; and we thank you!!

Whether you've volunteered in a classroom, at one of the PTA's events, on the school budget efforts, or behind the scenes, your help has had a wonderful impact on our Hunters Woods community and, importantly, on our kids. Not only have they benefited from the help itself in whatever form it has taken, but they benefit by having an engaged group of people around them that cares deeply about them . . . and that is a special gift!!!

If you still need to fulfill your pledge, please let me know and we'll get you connected! Thank you again for all you do! 🍷

**Deb Kaspar, Three for Me**  
threeforme@hwpta.org