

Hunters Horn

PTA Newsletter • Volume 42, Issue 1

September 15, 2009



President's Message

Back to School means new haircuts, shiny clean shoes and backpacks, and the clean slate of a new start. Welcome back to all the returning families, and a big welcome to Hunters Woods to all the families joining us for the first time this month. An hour since dismissal time; and my first grader and her friend are busy playing school. I hope every Hunters Woods student is as enthusiastic about school as the year starts.

The Hunters Woods PTA provides funding to supplement our kids' school experiences in and out of the classroom; organizes and runs Family Fun events; produces the school calendar and student directory; runs a fantastic after-school activities program; supports extra-curricular clubs; funds mini-grants for teachers to access as they see best; supports the Saturday School, a fine arts supplement for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students; and plans appreciation events for all the adults involved with Hunters Woods.

The PTA helps find volunteers to support school staff as needed through the year, including Room Parents.

You can support the school and PTA by attending Family Fun events, volunteering when a job suits your schedule and abilities, and participating in our fundraising activities.

Chalk for Peace is a Family Fun event on Saturday, September 26 from 9am – 12 Noon. Hunters Woods families and community neighbors are invited to cover the school grounds concrete with their representations of Peace. Drop by to draw on the sidewalks (and walls) and enjoy a sno-kone.

Our October Family Fun event will follow the very next weekend. Lots of parental help is needed to run the Fall Harvest Festival. Please sign up for a shift (or two) and plan to bring the whole family for fun and games on Saturday, October 3 from 3 – 6pm.

To learn more about volunteer needs and opportunities at Hunters Woods, read monthly newsletters and weekly eNews and drop by one of the PTA Volunteer Fairs on either Wednesday, September 23 from 6 – 8pm or Thursday, September 24, from 11am – 1pm. Returning volunteers can come and learn how to operate the PTA's fun food machines and get to utilize the Volunteer Spot website. Please email Volunteers@HWPTA.org at any time.

The PTA fall fundraiser, the Sally Foster campaign, starts today and culminates with the pick-up of orders at Teacher Conferences on November 2nd and 3rd. To financially support the PTA without participating in the Sally Foster campaign you can make donations directly to the PTA through our website or by sending in a check in an envelope addressed to PTA Donation.

Wishing you a great year,

Susan Sather, PTA President

President@hwpta.org

Student Directory

Our HWES student directory is being compiled already. Student information will appear in the directory just as it is entered in the school database. If you would prefer to have your child's name listed as a nickname, please send an email to directory@hwpta.org. Please include the legal name AND the name as you wish to have it listed. Once the directory is complete, all families with a paid PTA membership will receive a copy. Additional copies will be available for \$5 each.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, Sept. 15	Newcomers Coffee 6pm; Back To School Night (Grades K-3) 7pm
Wednesday, Sept. 16	Newcomers Coffee 6pm; Back to School Night (Grades 4-6) 7pm
Thursday, Sept. 17	PTA Meeting 7pm
Wednesday, Sept. 23	Volunteer Fair 6 – 8pm
Thursday, Sept. 24	Volunteer Fair 11am - 1pm
Saturday, Sept. 26	Chalk4Peace & Sno-Kone Social, 9am-12noon
Wednesday, Sept. 30	Sally Foster orders due
Friday, October 2	Cake Decorating Contest
Saturday, October 3	Fall Harvest Festival 3-6pm
Week of October 5-9	Crossing Guard and Bus Driver Appreciation Week
Friday, October 9	Help the Homeless Fun Run
Monday, October 12	No School, Columbus Day
Thursday, October 15	PTA Meeting 7pm
Week of October 19-23	Cafeteria and Custodial Staff Appreciation Week
Thursday, October 29	Picture Day
Friday, October 30	End of 1 st Quarter
Mon. & Tues., Nov. 2-3	No School, Parent Teacher Conferences

Three for Me at Hunters Woods!

Work a little of your magic at Hunters Woods!!

It's simple! The goal is for each person in our Hunters Woods community to pledge 3 hours of time over the course of the school year to help the school. That's it – a little means a LOT! There are many little or big ways to help – just ask your child's teacher for ideas or email us.

Make your pledge today! If you're not sure how to help, we'll help you find opportunities that fit your schedule and interests. Pledge online at hunterswoodspta.org or email us at threeforme@hunterswoodspta.org. Your help is critical in making Hunters Woods an extraordinary experience for all our children and their families. Thank you for all you do!

Volunteer Fair

Please consider volunteering to help with an event or to fill a vacant PTA position. It is only with the help and support of parents like you that the PTA can offer its many services and programs that benefit the school community.

Would you like to help somehow but are unsure where help is most needed or if you could fit volunteering into your schedule? If so, please come to the Volunteer Fair that will be held on Wednesday, September 23 from 6-8pm and Thursday, September 24 from 11am-1pm. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available. We can match you to an event or position that will best suit your talents and your schedule.

Join the PTA!

Please consider joining the PTA; membership costs \$10 with one adult voting membership; or \$13 for two adult voting members. Your membership includes the refrigerator magnet school calendar (available separately for \$5) and the student directory (available separately for \$5 and sent home in October).

Chalk 4 Peace & Sno-Kone Social

Hunters Woods will be participating in Chalk4Peace on September 26, 2009 at the school. Chalk4Peace is a worldwide chalk art project held annually with the goal of encouraging peace by way of simultaneous artistic expression. Hundreds of thousands of young artists are expected to participate at sites across the world.

At Hunters Woods, the event will begin at 9:00am and continue until noon. Each artist will be given sidewalk chalk and encouraged to express his or her vision of peace on the sidewalks and entryways around the school.

Beginning at 10:00am, the PTA will offer sno-kones to attendees. Anyone who would like to volunteer for a shift dispensing sno-cones is encouraged to sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/HWSno-kone>.

We encourage everyone to come draw a message for peace and socialize with other families from the community during this annual event at HWES! 🍷

Fall Harvest Festival

Every year, the Hunters Woods Elementary School PTA holds a Fall Harvest Festival at the school. This year's festival will be on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 3pm to 6pm.

The night before, on Friday, October 2, there will be a cake decorating contest. At Saturday's festival, there are many fun events including lots of games, crafts, face painting, a cake walk, a bake sale, pizza, soda, popcorn and cotton candy, and a raffle with cool prizes.

This is a fun and exciting event for the entire HWES community but MANY volunteers are needed to make it a success. We need volunteers to set-up before the event, run games, sell food, help with crafts, paint faces, and clean up after it is all over. Middle or high school students who want to earn service hours are welcome to help.

To sign up for a shift go to: <http://tinyurl.com/hwfhf>. You can sign up for multiple shifts. You will be contacted before the event with an assignment and instructions.

If you have any questions or need more information, please email Kelly Kroll or Jennifer Davis Heffner at harvest@hwpta.org. 🍷

Raffle Donations Needed!

The Fall Harvest Festival is also seeking donations for one of the most popular events of the festival ... the Raffle!

This year we are holding a separate raffle of an iPod Nano, but we are also looking for other items kids (and adults) like to win. Suggested raffle donations are: gift cards (e.g., Target, book stores, restaurants, and iTunes), new toys, books and games, tickets to events, and spa treatments.

If you have items or would like to purchase items that would make the raffle more fun, please consider donating them to support the Fall Harvest Festival. If you work for a community-oriented company, please request a tax deductible raffle donation to the festival.

You can send in smaller items such as gift certificates directly to the school. Please mark them "ATTN: Fall Festival Raffle." There will be a box in front of the office in which to place larger items. To have us pick-up items, please email harvestaffle@hunterswoodspta.org.

Thank you for supporting Hunters Woods Elementary School. 🍷

Beware NSF Fees

For any checks made payable to the PTA, please be aware that the bank will charge the customer's account a fee of \$50 if the check is returned for insufficient funds, even if the check subsequently clears when resubmitted. 🍷

Free Money from Local Retailers!

Well, just about. Hunters Woods earns THOUSANDS of dollars each year because parents like you take just a few minutes to sign up for the various programs offered by local stores. We know you are very busy, so here are some **small** steps you can take in order to play a **big** part in the success at Hunters Woods.

Giant Food: Hunters Woods code is 01983. Stop by the store to sign up for a card or link your current card to designate HWES as your Bonus Bucks recipient.

Harris Teeter: Hunters Woods code is 5138. Sign up at any store to designate Hunters Woods as your "Together in Education" funds recipient.

Office Depot: Hunters Woods code is 70104580. Tell them our code (or ask them to look it up for you) whenever you shop.

Safeway/Macy's/American Express/Discover: Hunters Woods code is 6518184. Log on to www.escrip.com to link your cards, sign up or renew.

Target: Stop by the service desk to link your Target charge card to HWES.

Please be aware that even if you had linked your card to HWES already last year, you need to renew your link for the new school year. The Hunters Woods PTA thanks you for your support! 🍷

Sally Foster Gift-wrap Fundraiser

Support Hunters Woods by purchasing your gift wrap, gifts, and Harry London chocolates from Sally Foster! In addition to receiving high quality items, you will be contributing to the PTA's largest fundraiser. Fifty percent of the proceeds from Sally Foster sales come back to the HWES PTA to fund services and programming for the entire year.

Catalogs and order forms are in your students' Tuesday Folders today. Please read the cover letter that accompanies the packet for complete details on the fundraiser. Completed order forms are due back to the school on Wednesday, September 30. Items will be distributed during the parent/teacher conferences at the school on November 2 and 3, 2009.

For out of town friends and family, or for the convenience of having the order shipped directly to your home, orders may also be placed online at www.sallyfoster.com using the Hunters Woods account number of 0142037. For a limited time, all internet orders over \$70 will be shipped for free. Students may register to sell in the "Seller Section" to receive incentive credit for orders placed before October 7.

If you find yourself in need of gift wrap or other Sally Foster items after the deadline to submit completed order forms has passed, you still may place orders online at any time during the school year. By using the Hunters Woods' account number, Hunters Woods PTA will receive 50% of the proceeds from internet sales placed online throughout the school year.

Please also consider volunteering to help out with this fundraiser. On Thursday, October 1 and Thursday, October 8, between 9am and 3pm, we will be tallying orders at 11607 Clipstone Lane in Reston. Email questions to SallyHelp@hwpta.org or sign up for one or both days at <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/106-6193471281>.

We also need help unloading and sorting the Sally Foster delivery on Friday, October 30. For more details email Leslie@theJeffries.com or to sign up go to <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/26-62008374815>.

Thanks for your support!! You may email any questions to giftwrap@HuntersWoodsPTA.org. 🍷