

Hunters Horn



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President's Message

Maureen Becker

Welcome Spring! It is hard to believe, but another school year is coming close to an end. Though there are only a couple of months left, there is a lot going on at the school with the Silent Auction, Book Fair and Primary Science night, just to name a few.

This weekend is the PTA Silent Auction, which is one of our largest fundraisers of the year. The money that we raise through all of our activities goes back to the school to enhance the academic experience of all of our students. At this month's PTA meeting, \$8,800 was approved for spending on four new laptops for the science lab, science books for the K/1 classrooms, and new raised beds to replace the decaying ones in our school garden. We are also sponsoring the Primary Science Night with \$1,000 to cover the cost of all the tables and other materials that are needed. We have also approved the purchase of ten multimedia carts for the school for \$6,900. These carts have the capability of delivering cable TV and sound through the cart, eliminating the need for a large TV and cart in the classroom.

It is very rewarding working with the PTA, the school administrators, and teachers to find ways to support the school. It also takes a good deal of time and a lot of volunteers to coordinate the events that raise the money for this support. We have some very dedicated people who have made it all possible:

- The Executive Committee who work many hours a week to keep the PTA running.
- The Year Book Chair, who meets every week with the students to put together the yearbook.
- The coordinators of the variety of after school activities.
- The book fairs organizers and Arts Integration Celebration coordinator—who spend whole days at school on these events.

April Events

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| 12 | PTA Silent Auction, 5 PM |
| 14-18 | Spring Book Fair |
| 17 | Primary Science Night, 6-8 PM |

- The volunteers that organize and run the Sock Hop, Fall Harvest Festival, International Festival, BINGO night, Silent Auction and other events that create our community here at the school.
- The Sally Foster and Original Art Works coordinators.
- The volunteers who put together the PTA calendar and directory.
- The classroom readers, Tuesday folder-stuffers, and parents that put together silent auction baskets.
- All the many others who give their time to the PTA, school and our students.

I want to invite you to become one of those people who volunteer and make it possible for the PTA to purchase those items for the school to enhance our children's education.

Please look out in the Tuesday Folder over the next few weeks for special information on volunteer opportunities for next year. We are looking for some new people who maybe have felt a little unsure of volunteering, or weren't sure what the opportunities entailed or if they had the time to volunteer to volunteer and help our school and students.

HWES PTA Silent Auction and Sock Hop

The Hunters Woods PTA Silent Auction in this Saturday night, April 12th, from 5 to 9 p.m. While parents attend the adults-only auction in the gym, kids can kick up their heels at the Sock Hop in the cafeteria. For \$5 they will get pizza, juice, snacks, dancing and games. At 8:00 p.m. the parents will join the kids for the raffle of select class baskets. The Silent Auction checkout will start following the raffles.

We do need your help:

We need chaperones - we are looking for parents to help with just one hour shifts. Don't worry you'll still be able to participate in the auction.

We need donations of food and drinks to help feed the crowd, especially juice boxes, canned sodas, finger foods, snacks, and desserts. Non-perishables may be dropped off at the PTA Office or Front Desk beginning Wednesday; all food and drinks will be accepted in the cafeteria Friday evening, Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and during the auction. Questions? Contact Tami Holsten at holstent@cox.net or 703-715-2226. Thanks and see you Saturday!

2, 4 6, 8 who do we APPRECIATE?

The next two months provide opportunities to appreciate those professionals who work with our students everyday. The week of April 21 through 25 is **Office/Clinic Staff Appreciation** week. The PTA will be providing lunch and covering the office for them while they enjoy it. **Teacher Appreciation Week** is May 5 through 9. The PTA will be sponsoring an all-day meal for them starting with breakfast, snacks and then lunch on May 7th. The week of May 19th through the 23rd is **Principal Appreciation** week and the PTA will be providing them with a lunch that week.

Don't forget to stop by and tell all these dedicated and caring people how much you appreciate all that they do for our school and students! If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, please e-mail Lisa Gordon at ltgordon1@verizon.net. Look for flyers in upcoming Tuesday folders for more details.

Primary Science Night!

Primary Science Night is coming April 17, 6–8 p.m. Grades K-1 will be in the Gym; Grade 2 will be in the Cafeteria

Parent Volunteers for Primary Science Night

Your help is needed in setting up the Science Projects and decorating the gym and cafeteria for Primary Science Night. Help will be needed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, April 14–17, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Please contact Susan Kelly if you can give a hand. Susan.T.Kelly@fcps.edu or call 703-262-7400 and leave a message.

Odyssey of the Mind 2008

On Saturday, March 15, teams of Hunters Woods students competed in the **2008 Odyssey of the Mind (OM) Regional Competition** at Falls Church High School. Hunters Woods has always been a significant contender at these regional competitions by fielding more teams than any other school. HWES students kept up that legacy again this year by fielding 11 teams.

The Odyssey of the Mind teams participated in 2 parts. They created and performed a skit and also competed in the Spontaneous component where they had to come up with creative and funny answers to a problem they had never seen before.

Notably, two of our HWES teams placed in 2nd and 3rd place in the overall competition.

The “Eccentric” team consisting of Jeffrey Banghart, Veda Bhatia, Mathew Hoppe, Gil Osofsky, Shirley Wang, and Christie Xin earned 2nd place with their World Saving Division I performance. “The team exhibited excellent showmanship, teamwork, and problem solving, I can't wait to see what they do next year!” said coach Banghart when asked about the team's season.

A new HWES team of mainly 4th graders earned 3rd place in the Division I “Road Rally” vehicle competition. The team consisted of Nikki Kothari, Vishal Mummareddy, Madhumita Aryasomayjula, Ziyi Xiau, Jeffrey Xia, Grant Newberry, and first grader Neil Kothari. Their 3rd place was in a field of 16 teams. They built a vehicle that had to perform stunts with different sports balls. They consistently scored very high with the success of their vehicle and in the spontaneous competition. The team was coached by dad Anand Kothari.

Coach Mike Horton and Assistant Coach Santhi Nadella with their young team of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders placed 6th in the same “Road Rally” vehicle problem. Alex Horton-Geer, Jonah Wilson, Varna Nadella, Meenakshi Mather, Olivia Xia, Champa Narayana and Aidan Kropp-Sullivan rounded out the team. They had a strong showing with their vehicle and accomplished all the required tasks like clockwork. They performed consistently well.

Another Division I Vehicle problem was led by Abby Thomas with her teammates Lauren Weis, Kira Baugh, Emily Landeryou, Avril Sharma, Bradley Thomas and Nicholas Angel. They kept the audience spell bound as they attempted time after time to use their vehicle's soccer ball launching system to hit a bottle across the room. After many tries, the team finally hit the bottle – getting great applause from the audience and great marks for persistence from the judges! The team was coached by Kevin Baugh.

A group of 3rd and 4th graders chose the Balsa Wood Problem. They put on a space skit where they rescued aliens and destroyed Homework Planet all while crushing a balsa wood tower. Kira Lee (architect), Mano Gohar (drama queen), Tiffany Cao (artist of alien murals and more), James Crowley and Patrick Kropp-Sullivan (skit writers), and Prithvi Narayana and Max Van Haaren (actor, crusher, and multi-contributors) combined their talents resulting in an imaginative skit and sound worthy balsa wood structure. The team is particularly proud of having the highest structure score of all 13 teams in this Division I problem. And everyone was happy Homework Planet was destroyed! The team was coached by Julia Sullivan and Nazli Gohar.

Coach Elizabeth Broussard also coached a Division I Balsa Wood Problem. She said her team was a pleasure to coach. They worked well together and had positive attitudes. The teammates were Connor Broussard, Parv Ahuja, Alexander Ross, Jaskirat Gill, Zachary Pearl and Matthew Wojciechowski.

In addition to the Banghart team, four other HWES teams competed in the “Eccentrics” problem.

Gail Winkelstein’s and Jeanne Stacey coached students Sarah Winkelstein, Michelle Stacey, Mahathi Tadikonda, Simran Dhungel, Nita Takanti, Danny Raust, with David Atkinson rounding out the team. Their Division II “Eccentrics” team did a wonderful job! They had great energy and enthusiasm combined with fabulous teamwork. A good time was had by all! Just ask them about “E=MC²”.

The other Division II “Eccentrics” team of Julie Estrada, Alison Yu, Charlotte Lopp, Tara Gupta, Anna Jordon, Amanda Barkan, and Olivia Peterkin had a strong showing, as well, against the older middle school students. The team was coached by veteran OM coach John Estrada.

Coach Michael Pearl’s team performed a skit for the Division I “Eccentrics” problem. The team was comprised of Brandon Pearl, Kyle Wang, Srikar Kosuri, Srijith Poduval, Evan Cao, Hannah Slevin, and Allison Welham. The team was neck and neck with another HWES Division I Team competing in the same problem. The two HWES teams scored less than a point apart!

The competing Division I “Eccentrics” team consisted of Ashley and Victoria Thai, Yohara Passela, and Jordon and Justin Taylor. The team was coached by Xuan Thuy and assisted by Thushara Passela.

Finally, a Division II “Muses” team consisting of Lissie Merin, Hannah Becker, Theo Richardson, Priya Seetharaman, Grace Erard, Lekha Narayana, and Prateesh Sharma placed well in a division of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The team scored the highest of all the teams in the style component of their muses skit. No doubt their artful and clever presentation of the many different sceneries for the skit earned them this distinction. The team was coached by Mia Merin.

Many of the teams performed in the top third or half of their competitions. All the teams had strong showings as well as a good time.

The HWES OM wants to extend thanks to the teachers who gave much of their time to support the competition as volunteer judges. Thank you to Mr. Garrison and Mrs. Shernoff. Mr. Garrison is a longtime supporter, having been a judge for many years, and Mrs. Lauren Shernoff is a new convert

who already plans to judge again next year. Thank you to the students who represented HWES so well. Thank you to all the coaches without whom the teams would not have existed. And much thanks also goes to the PTA and the front office who have supported OM year after year. It was the help of Elva Ligouras arranging team meeting spaces, Glenda Strickland writing so many bus passes for home meetings, Mrs. Toatley for her smiling enthusiasm and support, and the PTA supporting the HWES membership that made for a great effort this year. Thank you for a great Odyssey Year!

*Becky Banghart, Julia Sullivan, and Jyoti Bhatia
– HWES OM Coordinators.*

Spring Workday in the Gardens

We will be installing new raised beds in the gardens and doing other chores for grown-ups on Saturday, May 10th. Please hold the date in your busy schedules. Questions? Contact Catherine Linberg at grounds@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.

Plant Sales Position Open

Do you enjoy flowers, holiday greenery, and raising money for our school? If so, perhaps HWES’ Plant Sales Committee is the way to share your passions with the PTA. The Committee runs two plant sales each year—at holiday time and in the spring—in connection with Gaelic Gardens in Reston. The Committee chair schedules the sales with Gaelic Gardens, publicizes the sale through the Hunters Horn and Tuesday folders, then collects HWES’ share of the proceeds from the garden center after fellow Outdoor Enthusiasts have shopped for their seasonal supplies. Contact Susan Rigger at plants@HuntersWoodsPTA.org for information.

HWES PTA Spring Plant Sale

Friday, April 25 through Sunday, May 4

Gaelic Gardens,

10800 Baron Cameron, Reston (near the corner of Route 7)

Save 10% on the brightest annuals, perennials and potted plants, containers, flower and vegetable seeds, mulch, soil, and garden decorations . . . AND Gaelic Gardens will donate 10% of your purchase price to HWES PTA! Watch for your sales flyer coming home on Tuesday, April 22nd.

