

Hunters Horn



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President's Message—Cathy Uhrig

Spring has finally arrived. For many of our students that means that Standards of Learning tests (SOLs) are right around the corner. As always, make sure that your child gets plenty of rest the night before any test, and eats a nutritious breakfast on test day. These tests must be taken seriously as they are designed to measure what a student has been learning the whole school year. Be sure to watch for information from your teacher regarding the dates for these tests. Keeping a positive attitude will help make it a positive experience for your child.

For the PTA, Spring has meant a lot of fun activities.

Tara Gyenis (and all of the Staff Appreciation Committee) and many teachers, parents, and students spent the first week of April making our office staff aware of just how much they are appreciated. The office staff in turn has thanked all of us for our generosity and support.

For the past several months students have been working hard writing and submitting pieces for the upcoming issue of our literary magazine, Snickerdoodle. Almost 300 manuscripts were submitted and many are being published. Though this is a student edited publication, it takes a lot of volunteer support to make it happen. Rozanne Silverwood, Maribel Dobson, April Ludke, Ann Richards, and Karen Berube have given countless hours to make the project a success. You will be excited to see the final issue, which will be distributed to all students for the Writer's Celebration on June 16th.

Since the beginning of the school year, committee co-chairs Caroline Hemenway and Julia Kropp-Sullivan, and many coaches have been working with teams of students on Odyssey of the Mind, a problem-solving program that teaches students to think divergently in a wide range of interests. The competition was in the beginning of April. Congratulations and thanks go to all of the coaches and students.

Bingo Night, now an annual event, was a lot of fun for the whole family! Maureen Becker and a dozen volunteers put together a night of excitement with lots of winners. If you didn't make it this year, I hope you can next.

This week make sure you visit the Spring Book Fair. Co-chairs Mary Ellen Rubenstein, Jeanette Thomas, and Maureen Becker have worked hard to get this event up and running, and are counting on many of you who have offered to help out by

assisting the children with their choices and purchases. Thanks to all for giving your time.

April 17-23 is designated as National Volunteer Week. In observance of this special week, I would like to personally thank all who have done any volunteer work in the past year. Whether it be for the PTA, the school, your community, your place of worship, your sports team, or any other activity in which you participate, your time is the most valuable gift you can give. As PTA President, it has meant more than I could have imagined to know that so many of you could be counted on to step up to the needs of our school.

In looking forward, there are many committee chairs who are moving to different committees, or leaving our school. If there is a particular event that you would be interested in taking a more active role in, please feel free to contact me or Diane Hansen to talk about the opportunities.

Lost and Found

Are you missing a jacket, scarf, hat, or single glove? It may be in Lost and Found. The rack, located in the closet between the Dance Studio and Mr. Smith's Music room is full of items. There are also 4 large bags of jackets ready to be donated. If you are missing something and don't see it on the rack, contact Cathy Uhrig at cuhrig@comcast.net, before April 29, with a good description and she will look through the bags. As Cathy has returned items with names in them to students weekly throughout the year, marking your belongings with at least your last name is the easiest way to get them back.

Sixth Grade Luncheon

Sixth grade parents are invited to attend the second meeting of the 6th grade Luncheon Committee tonight, April 19, 2005.

Langston Hughes Invitation

Rising Hughes 7th graders, come to the LHMS Parade of Stars on April 20, 2005, Pizza will be sold in the cafeteria from 6:00-7:00pm and you can walk around the school and see student work from 7:00-9:00pm. Panther T-shirts and pins will also be sold at a discounted price. Hope you can attend.

Book Fair is HERE

All this week the Book Fair will be set up during school hours in the Primary Pod. Parents are welcome at any time, and we're open for evening hours on Thursday, April 21.

Preschool Coffees

The PTA hosted a get-to-know-us coffee this morning for parents of rising 2005-2006 Kindergardeners. Mr. Hockett answered questions and PTA members welcomed the parents and spoke about volunteer opportunities at the school. A second event is planned for the evening of April 27. If you know someone who might be interested, invitations are available in the office.

Hershey Track & Field Meet

Children from 9 – 13 years old compete in this Track and Field event on May 12 – 13. Registration forms and info are in the office or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec/Team_Sports/Hershey.htm.

APRIL

- 18 – 22** Spring Book Fair
- 19** Sixth Grade Luncheon Committee 7 p.m.
- 21** Primary Grades Science Night 7 p.m.
- 27** 5th and 6th Grade Dance Performance 7 p.m.

MAY

- 2** Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon & Week
- 4** Principal's Coffee at 6:30 p.m., followed by PTA Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 5** Grade 3 – 6 Chamber Concert 7 p.m.
- 26** Sixth Grade Opera 7 p.m. at GMU

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 2-6 is Teacher Appreciation Week, the time designated to let our teachers know how much we appreciate all they do for our children. It is a great time to say, "thank you," send a note, or make a gesture of appreciation to these dedicated individuals.

On Monday, May 2, parents will be treating our teachers to a special lunch. Parents are invited to participate by making a food contribution depending on the grade of their student. Families with more than one student should only make one contribution. K-3rd grade parents will provide an appetizer or salad. Grade 4-5 parents will bring a main dish, and the 6th grade parents will provide dessert. Food may be dropped off on Monday morning in the teacher's lounge, down the hall from the office. Thank you for all your contributions.

Odyssey of the Mind Thanks

Essential to the OM experience are our volunteer judges. All the OM teams would like to give special thanks to our HWES OM judges. Returning veteran OM judges Mr. Garrison, Mr. Cook, and Mrs. Kelly were joined by two new recruits, Miss Grossa and Mr. Carter. Several parents, Mr. Davison and Mr. Eltinge and Mrs. Grace Conroy were appreciated judges in the competition, too. Thank you also to Mr. Hockett and the PTA for their support.

Odyssey of the Mind: Another Banner Year

The HWES Odyssey of the Mind (OM) League had a great season again this year. The school fielded 11 teams of kids who were encouraged to act on wacky and zany thoughts by creating wacky and zany skits. Two weeks ago, the teams participated in the regional competition with over 180 teams. Hunters Woods by far had the largest group from any school and also had four winning teams. ***In Your Dreams*** (Team A) Division I placed first in their division. And three teams, ***Crazy Columns***, Division I, ***Crazy Columns***, Division II and ***In Your Dreams*** Division I won second place in their divisions.

The big news was the Division I, ***Laugh-a-thon*** Team, coached by Michael Horton-Geer and Becky Banghart, took first place and move on to the April 2, State OM competition. The judges were blown away by their humorous depiction of a dog show and loved the team's creativity. This team worked together last year and took second place. Good luck to members Stephen Banghart, Sadie Belt, Ria Bhatia, Gabriela Driscoll, Dana Horton-Geer, Keeley McClaughlin, and Michael Yuan.

Crazy Columns Div. I team of Harlan Mantelli, Rupali Vohra, Sruthi Poduval, Eric Lee, Brain Raust, and Angad Gill, coached by Marc Vantelli and Lalit Vohra, took second place in their competition. The team's structure held 117 pounds but that was just the icing on the cake. The team was especially proud of their musical, safari skit used to present and test their balsa wood columns.

Another ***Crazy Columns*** (Div, II) is also happy to report coming in second place overall and first place in the Spontaneous Problem in their division. The team, coached by Myron Rosmarin, was comprised of Jennifer Bae, Alex Bernstein, Janiel Li, Rasia "Chichi" Li, Hannah Nelson, Sam Nicoll and Austin Rosmarin. The team's 15 gram structure held 207 pounds (much more than they expected). The theme of their skit was "Who Wants to Win \$1?" and was performed flawlessly.

Div. I ***In-Your-Dreams*** team, coached by Caroline Hemenway, came in a solid 2nd place in the highly competitive event. The seven 5th-grade teammates created a nightmarish math teacher/monster (Isabel Hulkower)

and two nerdy math students (Zack Sturm, Rebecca Hemenlotter) who turned out to be fun classmates of the dreaming Claire (Alex Brake), showing her that math could really be fun if you turn it into a game. In fighting the nightmare, Claire had help from an art teacher/disco dude (Colleen Gleason), a Mickey Mouse stuffed animal (Ajit Chellappa), and Claire's mom (Samantha Chamberlin). The team worked hard to make the math-formula-covered geometrical monster out of a trash can (cylinder), boxes (cubes, tetrahedrons, rectangular prisms), spheres, and funnels (cones) that catapulted and slingshotted objects, later opening to reveal cheerful math games. The judges said they loved that monster! Cheers to them all!

The non competitive "Primary Team" was made up of kids from kindergarten and first grade. Coach Jyoti Bhatia coached Veda Bhatia, Mickias Kumbi, Preethesh Puthran, Srijith Poduval, and Melanie Gillotte stardom. The team created an original fable for their problem ***Fable-Us!*** in which they wrote a script, memorized their lines and acted it out. They did wonderful and got rave reviews from the judges on their acting and simple costumes of the animals they were portraying.

Coach Shelby Quast's Div. I ***Laugh-a-thon*** team of Lyndy Quast, Marcela Hawkins, Eric Wybanga, Mark Crowley, Brian Burns, Senthil Kannan placed well and had a great time. The judges complimented the team on coming up with a truly funny skit that flowed and made sense. The judges all loved the creativity involved with the scenery system. But the best compliment of all was how many people said that it was easy to see just how much fun this team had together.

"Hey, where else are we encouraged to make a mess and build monsters that throw pies." This sums up the sentiments of the ***In-Your-Dreams*** team comprised of Hadeel Alwani, Sam Becker, Caio Davison, Grace Erard, Mathew Thomas, Olivia Wolfe and Owen Wolfe. Despite a few setbacks on the day of the competition – include a mysteriously disappearing energy chip - the team still came in 5th place. Their rotating scenery was a big hit with the judges. Not bad for this team of 3rd – 6th graders, especially since they were competing against the largest numbers of teams ever, many of which were in middle school. This team was coached by Jeanette Thomas and Jody Wolfe.

Div. II ***In-Your-Dreams*** Team coached by Vijay Takanti with Varun Tankanti, Zachary Goldberger, Aksahy Shastri, Matthew Whitlock, Kishore Bharadwaj, and Steven Eltinge enjoyed their skit and were especially proud of the judges' comments on the scene changes in their dream-skit.

Yes a 15 gram structure can really hold weight! New to balsa wood world, the Div. II ***Crazy Columns*** team of Matthew Beeman, Patrick and Ethan Cantwell, and Richard, Andrew, and Patrick Kropp-Sullivan and Timothy Yaun, had a great time visiting ***The Ridiculous Fantasy World*** in their skit. The judges liked their costumes and the passage of time that was marked with the aging of a 5000 year old man. Their amazing balsa wood experience already has them anticipating next year's OM competition. The team was coached by Karen Cantwell and Julia Sullivan.

Div. I ***Stunt Mobiles*** Coach Elaine Keith and the MAWHD Team of (Mallika Patkar, Amit Dayal, Weina Bao, Hillary Liu, and David Keith, were all new to OM this year. They were pleased with their 3rd place in the spontaneous portion of the competition. And they were proud of two erector set vehicles built and run to solve the long-term stunt mobile problem. They learned a lot about teamwork, creative thinking, and how to build vehicles in five short months!

Div. II ***Stunt Mobiles*** Coach coach Sujata Chalasani and team of Shekhar Chalasani, Hanish Moola, Siddhant Sethi, Steven Quian, Nimesh Chakravarthi, and Alex Harasty were proud of developing a kit to use an RCX for one of the vehicles and the humorous skit used to present their vehicle.