
Hunters Horn

April 2006

Volume 38, Issue 8



Auction Donors

Thanks to the generous support of Hunters Woods families, local businesses and politicians, the first PTA Spring Auction raised over \$14,000 from 266 auction items. Chairing the event was a real pleasure, because I got to work with so many wonderful volunteers. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the event, and everyone who participated. Next year we will hold the auction in the Spring with a childrens' event and optional Monday checkout.

I want to thank those who coordinated individual parts of the event: Cindy Kappel organized the 39 Class Baskets, and the parents in each class who created the baskets. Tracy Meleski planned and ran Movie Night, Elizabeth Digilio and Tricia Graves for all the lovely decorations, Courtney Wilson and Jody Wolfe arranged food and drinks for the evening, the many parents who donated refreshments, Blakely Meyers made the lovely signs to represent non-tangible auction items, Marina Matthes helped plan and run the entire event, Shashi Ravishankar designed and continues to work with the data for the auction database, and special thanks to Auction Co-Chair, Karen Purdy, who solicited and picked up items from dozens of businesses all over Northern Virginia. Thanks also to: Kim Clifner, Nicole Dudas, Tanya Easley, Trellis Evans, Pam Gilbert, Lisa Groves, Jackie Henenlotter, Deborah Lannen, Cindy Powell, Bill Sather, Jeanette Thomas and Cathy Uhrig. Thanks to all who helped out with this event, apologies to those whose names I have missed, your efforts are appreciated, though my memory is flawed. – *Susan Sather*

We had over 90 business donations from 60 donors. Please extend our thanks and frequent their businesses:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
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| Angela's Happy Stamper | Dulles Golf Center | Company, Sterling VA | Shoppers Food Warehouse |
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| Big Bowl | Fairfax Fencers | Maverick Mosaics | The Cinnamon Tree |
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| Dr. Ternisky | Janet Howell | Reston Town Center | |
| | Ken Plum | Salvatore Ferragamo | |

The following local politicians gave donations to support our school and PTA:

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| George Allen | Janet Howell | Ken Plum | Frank Wolf |
| Jim Moran | Cathy Hudgins | John Warner | |

The following people made personal donations to support our school and PTA:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
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| Connie Hernandez | Jeanne Yin - Unfranchise Owner | Pam and Dennis Light | Turk Family |
| Courtney Wilson | Jill Garcia | Ravi & Shashi Ravishankar | Vicki Huchette |

This year 46 teachers and administrators donated time and resources for 64 separate experiences as auction items. Special thanks to:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Mr. Adams | Ms. Defilippo | Ms. Harrison | Ms. Perrin |
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| Ms. Costello | Ms. Harris | Mr. Nguyen | |

Odyssey of the Mind

Out of a record 12 Hunters Woods Odyssey of the Mind teams that fielded 77 students and 16 coaches this year, two went from regionals to the state competition April 8 in Newport News – and one is going to Iowa State University for the World Finals competition May 24-27!

Ancient Egypt Division I Team A, coached by Michael Horton and Becky Banghart, took second place at the state meet April 8 in Newport News and is moving on. (First and second places from each state go to the finals.) Team members are Stephen Banghart, Sadie Belt, Ria Bhatia, Gabriela Driscoll, Dana Horton-Geer, Keeley McClaughlin, and Michael Yuan. The judges were blown away by their humorous depiction of how the first “Templeraunt” (a temple and a restaurant in one) was created. They also loved the team’s creativity. This was the second year for the team to proceed to the state competition and its first to Worlds. Out of 11 teams competing in this event, four were from Northern Virginia: First placer Burnt Chimney ES, Belvedere ES, Bull Run ES, and Henderson MS. The team will be seeking funding to help offset the trip’s cost, and are looking forward to having a great time and doing their best. Good Luck !

Our other Hunters Woods team at the state meet were all 6th-graders competing against six middle school teams to solve the Division II Jungle Bloke problem. They created a Verunga Jungle volcano that kept sneezing down straw and stick huts, featuring a whirling lava dance. This required that now-homeless siblings Peace Bloke (Isabel Hulkower) and Bloke Daddy (Ajit Chellappa), and a gorilla, giraffe, and flamingo help each other seek the safety of sister Business Bloke’s (Rebecca Henelotter’s) brick hut. The outcome? The volcano decided to relocate to Uncle Igneous in Costa Rica and leave her new friends in peace. The judges loved the costumes especially: Samantha Chamberlin created a tall giraffe from packing foam, Brandon Lin sewed his own gorilla, Zack Sturm agreed to wear pink flamingo feathers, and Sara Delaney was the fire-faced volcano. Caroline Hemenway coached, and the team thanks Jennifer Toms for judging.

Of course, every team was a winner because in “Odyssey of the Mind” it is the odyssey – the journey – that counts, not the destination. All our teams did very well in the rankings. OM is an international program where teams of five to seven students choose one of several long-term problems to solve in an eight-minute skit performed before judges for scoring. They also solve on-the-spot challenges. The creative process rewards thinking “outside the box.” They do all the work, from script to construction, entirely themselves. We are proud of them! Here are the other stories from the regional meet March 4 at Falls Church High School.

Myron Rosmarin’s Geometry Structure Div II Team B had a strong showing, coming in third place in a field of very competitive teams, some from schools that regularly send teams to World finals. The team consisted of 6th grade OM veterans Austin Rosmarin, Alex Bernstein, Chichi Li, and Ethan Cantwell. Also on the team and new to OM this year were 3rd graders Amelia Rosmarin, John Shebat, and Lucas Lin. The team performed a skit about spies and placed second in the Spontaneous Competition behind HWES Team A.

Jyoti Bhatia’s Primary team - Veda Bhatia, Anjali Khanna, Marshall Gordon, Noor Totonji, Mickias Kumbi, Srijith Poduval - worked very hard in the last few months on their Space Trek problem. They had a unique design for their spaceship and gave an enthusiastic performance. The team enjoyed their day at the OM competition and most want to do it again next year. They got excellent reviews from the judges on great teamwork, a funny script, and great props.

On the other Hunters Woods Primary team were: Emma Cantwell, Patrick Kropp-Sullivan, Abby Thomas and Michelle Whitlock. This was a first-time experience for Emma, Abby, and Michelle, while it was Patrick’s second year. The skit they performed for the judges was titled, “Three Kitten Space Travelers and One Robot” and judges rewarded them with such remarks as “great costumes!” and “funny robot!” It was a fun time for all, including the coach, Karen Cantwell.

Jungle Bloke Div I Team A, a.k.a. The Woolly Monkeys, consisted of Abhijith Chaganti, Melanie Piller, Danny Raust, Michelle Stacey, Sarah Winkelstein, and Max Zheng, with coach Greg Piller. After several months of effort and a little cramming at the end, they performed a very entertaining solution with great props, costumes, and a fabulous song and dance. It was a creative performance. The judges loved the song, the grass hut, the costumes, and the story line. They also did well in the spontaneous problem. Excellent job team!

The Div I Great Parade team included Emily Krisanda, Micaela Sturm, and Shelby Sturm from Hunters Woods along with Maia Parsathary, Amy Higgins, Adrianna Taweel and Lindsay Bolger from Crossfield. This team, coached by Michele Krisanda, tackled the very challenging problem of building a vehicle with a hand-powered propulsion system along with two technical features - pulleys and a very creative catapult. Every member of this team learned how to use power tools and worked hard; despite a last-minute ruling two days before the competition that invalidated their solution, the team rallied to come up with an alternative featuring a wheelchair vehicle to present.

Ancient Egypt Div I Team B, coached by Jody Wolfe/Aileen Thompson, consisted of Hannah Becker, Grace Thompson Erard, Rachel Heatherly, Dana Lueker, Elizabeth Merin and Olivia Wolfe. They put on a creative performance that included Queen Hatshepsut, a cat mummy, Egyptian dancing, an imposter, and even cheerleading and a time fairy! The team is grateful to Jeanette Thomas for judging.

Geometry Structure Div I Team A participants had a wonderful time at the regional tournament, placing 5th among 9 teams. The group, coached by Tak Lee, was made up of seven HWES students: 5th-graders Ben Hsu, Benjamin Lee, Michael Liu, and Senthil Kannan.; and 4th-graders Amanda Barkan, Rena Liu, and Kumar Thyagarajan. After months of work, the team created a 15-gram balsawood structure that held more than 120 lbs. during the weight competition. Also in keeping with the geometry theme, the team performed a "Squareville" radio announcement skit with a "Squarios" commercial and weather report. Here's a sample of the opening lines..."Welcome to Squareville. This is Billy Bob Joe reporting for 88 Square MPS. Now our weather man for the scoop on the weather in Square county!"

The Ancient Egypt Div II John Estrada team comprised 6th-graders Connor Hann, Kelly Sanborn, Pratik Singh, Ryan Forrest, and Suzy Estrada, and 4th-grader Julie Estrada. Julie writes: "Odyssey of the Mind was the best time I've ever had. I made new friends and got to see old ones too. I had fun playing a different person. I learned responsibility and respect. I learned that I can do anything if I set my mind to it." The team thanks Mr. Garrison for being our judge.

The Lalit Vohra/Nancy Mantelli Geometry Structure Div. II team had an inspiring and stimulating OM year. The script-writing team of Brian Raust, Guanmei Liang, Mashal Wakilpoor and Harlan Mantelli captured the acting and singing abilities of each child. The structure building team of Sruthi Podoval, Rupali Vohra and Eric Lee used its engineering genius to create a structure that could withstand many, many pounds. While this couldn't be proved at the meet, they did prove that teamwork, time management, and communication are integral to success. These traits were demonstrated week after week during meetings. The result: Lessons in friendship and sportsmanship that will last a lifetime.

Division II Geometry Structure (balsa wood problem) Team C, coached by Julia Sullivan and Elaine Keith had a great time and were very proud of their skit. They placed 5th place overall; 3rd in both the long-term problem and style categories. Their laugh-out-loud skit took place in a fictitious country that used fire, water, and rocks to test a balsa wood structure given in friendship by another fictitious country. Their creative costumes also drew praise from the judges. The team consisted mostly 5th graders and all OM veterans. David Keith, Andrew Kropp-Sullivan, Hillary Liu, and Mallika Patkar, Patrick Cantwell, Richard Kropp-Sullivan made for an awesome team. The team also thanks Grace Chang for volunteering to be their judge.

Odyssey of the Mind is all about creativity, an often overlooked element in the growth and development of many students. Kids are rewarded more for how they apply their knowledge, skills and talents, and not for coming up with the right answer. They learn skills that last a lifetime, such as cooperation and respect for other ideas, that there's often more than one way to solve a problem, and that sometimes the process is more important than the end result. They work within a budget, so they learn to manage their money. Thousands of teams from throughout the US and from about 25 other countries participate in the program. Support ranges from college admissions offices to engineering firms and beyond. NASA sponsors one problem each year.

We thank all the parents, students, siblings, judges, and volunteers for the thousands of hours that made this so successful. Thanks to Principal Olivia Toatley, administrators, and the PTA for support, and to HWES teachers Jim Garrison and Joanna Grossa for being judges.

OM is open to everyone; the only limitation is the number of coaches we can recruit. Hunters Woods has grown this terrific program from about four teams five years ago to 12 this year, the most from any school in the region. We encourage everyone, adults and kids, to check

out the program at www.odysseyofthemind.com. Of note is that one of the Rachel Carson teams, filled with HWES grads and coached by Eugenia Driscoll, also is going to Worlds. Congratulations to all the teams, and good luck to our World finalists! See you next year!

—Caroline Hemenway, Julia Sullivan, and Myron Rosmarin

Spring Book Fair

Mark your calendars for May 1–5. The PTA book fair is coming! Parents are welcome to preview/purchase anytime during our open hours, which are tentatively: 8:30 AM–1 PM on Monday (5/1), 8:30 AM–3:30 PM (Tuesday 5/2–Thursday 5/4), and 8:30 AM–12 noon on Friday (5/5). The book fair will also be open on Wednesday evening (5/3) 6–8 PM and Thursday evening (5/4) (6–8:30 PM). Each classroom will also be scheduled 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). Bookworm Plantation always provides us with a terrific selection of books—this is a great opportunity to stock up on some summer reading materials.

Volunteers are still needed for many of the time slots above, and for set-up on Friday, 4/28, and pack-up on Friday, 5/5 (12 noon–2 PM). If you are interested in volunteering, please email us with your contact information and when you are able to volunteer. We appreciate any time that you can offer!

Campbell's Labels & Boxtops

The school year is winding down fast. Time to start thinking about a volunteer position that will help HWES next year. If you would like a volunteer position that you can manage from home consider becoming the Coordinator for Boxtops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education. These are really two separate jobs that can be managed together or split up with a separate Coordinator for each. If you would like more information please e mail me at lreff@earthlink.net.

HWES PTA Spring Plant Sale

It's that time of year again! Beautify your garden or patio--maybe even delight someone in time for Mother's Day!

This year, we're trying something a little different: You'll be able to shop at Gaelic Gardens/Reston Farm Market (at the corner of Rte 7 and Baron Cameron), so you'll have the choice of ALL the plants and gifts there. During April 21-30, Gaelic Gardens will give HWES families a 10% discount, plus they will donate a generous portion of our sales total back to the HWES PTA.

See your Tuesday Folder for your discount flyer to take shopping! Happy Spring!

Earth Day Festival

Don't miss the free Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Walker Nature Center featuring Live Animals, Musical Entertainment, Games and Hands-on Nature Activities, Nature Craft making, Service Project Planning, Canoe & Kayak Rentals on Lake Audubon and a 5K Fun Run to benefit the Nature House (at 8 a.m. rain or shine.) Volunteers are needed, call 703-435-7986.

Upcoming Staff Appreciations

The week of April 24-28 is designated as Office/Clinic Staff Appreciation Week. Everyone is welcome to stop by the office and clinic and thank the staff for all that they do. The PTA will be honoring the staff with some special treats that week.

The week of May 8-12 is Teacher Appreciation Week. This is the week set aside every year for us to thank our teachers for being the special people that they are. Room Parents are welcome to organize activities or let families do their own special thing. The PTA will be organizing an event for the teachers. Look for flyers in next week's Tuesday folders.

Will there be a Snickerdoodle in 2007?

Snickerdoodle, Hunters Woods literary publication written, edited and produced by the students, is in danger for next year. Did you know that this book is entirely volunteer driven? Two key positions will be open next year: Editorial Coordinator and Production Coordinator. While both positions require a commitment, the rewards are huge and tangible. In the end you have helped the students produce a book of over 200 submissions that every HWES student will receive and cherish.

We would like to help transition next years team by introducing them to the responsibilities this year. Even if you aren't sure, email us so we can talk. Ideally the Editorial Coordinator would have background or understanding of the editing process and the Production Coordinator be familiar with desktop publishing. Don't let this wonderful tradition die out, email Rozanne Silverwood and Karen Berube at snickerdoodle@hunterswoodspta.org.

The PTA will provides one copy per child and you can order extra copies with a form that will come home in a Tuesday Folder soon.

Parking/Stopping

Please remember that the curb marked with yellow in the front of our school is the fire and bus lane. Cars should not be parked, and/or left running in this area. Please park in a designated parking space.

We appreciate your assistance in helping keep our children and our school a safe place.

Reflections 2006: I Wonder Why?

We received the largest number of entries this year, over 100, for the PTA National Reflections Contest!. The judges were impressed with the quality of all the entries. Only a very limited number can be selected to send forth to the Council level. Nine HWES artists were sent to the Council level. At the Council level, several HWES were also given awards! Congratulations to all the HWES students who used their creativity to write, photograph, draw, paint and compose about the wonders they see in the world. All entries showed creativity and intellect and all parents and children can be proud of the works that delighted the judges.

Abdikarim, Azeez, Literature, HWES Honorable Mention; **Abraham, Daniel**, ; **Ahluwalia, Anui**, Visual Arts, *Selected for Council Level*; **Anderson, Jay**, Photography, HWES Honorable Mention; **Annand, Netra**, Literature;

Applegate, Sydney, Visual Arts; **Aylor, Parker**, Visual Arts; **Bailey, Brian**, Literature; **Bailey, Brian**, Photography; **Bean, Sunnava**, Literature; **Becker, Samuel**, Literature; **Bhattacharyya, Pritha**, Literature, *Selected for Council Level* ; **Braun, Ingrid**, Music; **Brouckman, Laura**, Literature, *Award of Excellence - Council Level*; **Brown, Gavin**, Visual Arts; **Burgess, David**, Visual Arts; **Chaghanti, Abhijith**, Photography; **Chang, Demi**, Visual Arts, HWES Honorable Mention; **Chee, Mason**, Literature, HWES Honorable Mention; **Chen, Eileen**, Visual Arts; **Chiao, Josephine**, Visual Arts, HWES Honorable Mention; **Clifner, Brandon**, Photography, *Award of Excellence - Council Level*; **Condas, Rob**, Visual Arts; **Duvall, Nate**, Photography; **Fox, Nicholas**, Literature, HWES Honorable Mention; **Gore, Shantanu**, Literature; **Groskaufmanis, Jacqueline**, Visual Arts; **Grubbs, Jessica**, Literature, HWES Honorable Mention; **Hall, Lucas**, Photography; **Hall, Tommy**, Visual Arts; **Hann, Caitlyn**, Visual Arts; **Hartt, Olivia**, Visual Arts, HWES Honorable Mention; **Hartt, Olivia**, Visual Arts; **Herndon, Kyle**, Literature; **Hildebrand, Daniel**, Literature; **Hunter, Clair**, Literature; **Irwin, Donald (Connor)**, Photography, HWES Honorable Mention; **Irwin, Donald (Connor)**, Visual Arts, HWES Honorable Mention; **Iyer, Sriram**, Literature; **Jiang, Dylan**, Literature; **Jindal, Sonia**, Photography; **Kamani, Amitav**, Literature; **Kan, Ellen**, Literature, HWES Honorable Mention; **Keen, Trevon**, Photography, HWES Honorable Mention; **Khanna, Anjali**, Visual Arts, HWES Honorable Mention; **Kim, Brandon**, Photography; **Kumar, Megh**, Visual Arts; **Kwon, Michael**, Visual Arts; **Lebolt, Olivia**, Literature; **Ligier, Michael**, Visual Arts, HWES Honorable Mention; **Lin, Lucas**, Literature; **Little, Jade**, Literature; **Liu, Hillary**, Literature; **Liu, Hillary**, Visual Arts; **Lloyd, Jack**, Visual Arts; **Lorengo, Nichaad**, Visual Arts, HWES Honorable Mention; **Lueker, Dana**, Visual Arts; **Malzahn, Janet**, Visual Arts, *Selected for Council Level*; **Manchikanti, Nikhila**, Literature; **Mantelli, Harlan**, Visual Arts; **Markin, Jacob**, Visual Arts; **Mehdi, Alisha**, Visual Arts; **Miller, Paige**, Visual Arts; **Minnix, Diana**, Literature; **Montgomery, Caden**, Music; **Morgan, Alex**, Visual Arts; **Nandi, Shriya**, Literature; **Nguyen, Victoria**, ; **Nikoloch, Ben**, Photography; **Nysetvold, Jared**, Music, *Selected for Council Level*; **O'Brien, Gwendolyn**, Literature; **Orori, Kwabena**, Visual Arts; **Park, Natalie**, Visual Arts; **Pelgrim, Madeline**, Photography; **Pentakalos, John**, Photography; **Phung, Leslie**, Visual Arts; **Pierce, Katie**, Photography; **Ravishankar, Neel**, Literature; **Reddick, Oliver**, Photography, *Award of Excellence - Council Level*; **Rensel, Katherine**, Visual Arts, HWES Honorable Mention; **Riordan, Kevin**, Literature, HWES Honorable Mention; **Riordan, Kevin**, Visual Arts, HWES Honorable Mention; **Robbins, Clair**, Visual Arts; **Sargent, Andrew**, Photography, HWES Honorable Mention; **Singh, Amrita**, Visual Arts; **Singh, Pratik**, Visual Arts; **Son, Justin**, Photography; **Sorenson, Ingrid**, Literature, HWES Honorable Mention; **Stacey, Michelle**, Literature; **Stevens, Johnny**, Photography; **Sturm, Shelby**, Visual Arts; **Sullivan, Brent**, Visual Arts; **Suyama, Alina**, Visual Arts; **Talaksi, Allie**, Visual Arts, *Award of Excellence - Council Level*; **Tate, Gabrielle**, Photography, *Award of Excellence - Council Level*; **Tate, Breanna**, Visual Arts; **Taylor, Ross**, Literature; **Thai, Ashley**, Visual Arts; **Thinnyun, May**, Visual Arts; **Thomas, Devin**, Visual Arts; **Trautman, Jacqueline**, Photography, HWES Honorable Mention; **Villaflor, Alexa**, Visual Arts; **Wakilpoor, Marshal**, Visual Arts; **Walters, Eric**, Visual Arts, HWES Honorable Mention; **Walters, Scott**, Visual Arts; **Wang, Zoe**, Photography; **Weckesser, Alex**, Literature, HWES Honorable Mention; **Winkelstein, Sarah**, Literature, HWES Honorable Mention; **Wolfe, Olivia**, Visual Arts; **Wolfe, Owen**, Literature; **Wright, John**, Visual Arts; **Yu, Erika**, Literature; **Zhang, Edith**, Visual Arts;