



# Hunters Horn



PTA Newsletter • Volume 43, Issue 7 • April 5, 2011

## President's Message

Hello Mustang Families!

As this edition will be going out right after our April Fools Dance, I would like to thank Debbie Anguizola and her committee of volunteers for such a unique and laughter filled event!

Thank you's additionally go out to:

- Lisa Gordon for organizing our Office and Clinic Appreciation Week.
- Laura Gerry and Beth Atkins for the School Play.
- The Spring Book Fair Committee members, who are starting to plan and organize.
- Kelly Rowell and Sherry Huang for stepping in to help co-chair chess for the rest of the year.
- Norma Morris, the art department and many parent volunteers, who are working so hard during our Artist-in-Residence week.
- Raba Letteri and Kelly Rowell for catering the Career Day event.
- Marina Matthes for coordinating volunteers for Spring Picture Day.
- Raba Letteri for planning and organizing the Talent Share Event.

Also, I would like to thank the PTA officers and board who have been so supportive in attending PTA meetings and helping make many of the important decisions which affect all of our students, school and community.

On another note, summer seems such a short time away - leaving NOW as our time to plan for next school year, 2011-2012. Our school benefits from the active involvement and true dedication of our PTA volunteers. I have been working on the PTA board for six years, from bake sale mom to President. During that time, I have learned that the most successful volunteers are the ones who do not wait to be asked, who generously offer their talents, enjoy working with all kinds of different people, and are enthusiastic and willing to consistently work for the good of our school and students.

Our PTA is in a time of leadership change. We have a very dedicated slate of officers for 2011-2012 (see list in the Election article) ready to support our next president, BUT we do not have a President-elect. The President-elect position involves one year of no responsibilities but shadowing the President and then one year as President of the PTA.

I am asking each of you to consider stepping up and making a commitment to be the leader that we need for 2012-13. I believe that if you are enthusiastic and have time to commit consistently over the next two years, I can easily mentor you, teach you the ins and outs of our PTA and then after a year, hand over the reins of command. I welcome anyone who is interested to contact me at:

[president@hwpta.org](mailto:president@hwpta.org). In friendship,

*Jennifer Arakelian, PTA President* 🍷

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Wednesday, April 6   | Spring Picture Day;<br>Spring Chamber<br>Concert, 7pm                 |
| Fri.-Sun, April 8-10 | PTA Musical   |
| Tuesday, April 12    | Magnet Open House,<br>9:15; 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dance<br>Informance |
| Wednesday, April 13  | 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dance<br>Informance                             |
| Thursday, April 14   | 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Museum  |
| Week of April 17-22  | Spring Break, no school   |
| Week of April 25-29  | Office and Clinic Staff<br>Appreciation Week                          |
| Tuesday, April 26    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Movement<br>Performance                         |
| Thursday, April 28   | PTA Meeting, 7pm  |
| Friday, April 29     | PTA Talent Share, 7pm   |
| Week of May 2-6      | PTA Spring Book Fair;<br>Teacher Appreciation<br>Week                 |
| Thursday, May 5      | 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dance<br>Informance                             |

## Announcement of Slate of PTA Officers for 2011-2012

As per our PTA bylaws, the Nominating Committee would like to announce the PTA slate of officers for the 2011-2012 school year. An official ballot will be delivered via the Tuesday Folder system on May 3. All votes will be tallied during the PTA meeting on May 18.

- President - Jennifer Arakelian
- President-elect - OPEN
- Treasurer - Doug Kaspar
- Vice President of Events - Debbie Anguizola
- Vice President of Communications - Colleen Line
- Vice President of Volunteers - Susan Sather
- Vice President of Ways and Means - Sridevi Settipalli
- Vice President of Fundraising - Alexis Shield
- Recording Secretary - Melissa Benett
- Corresponding Secretary - Shreeti Kapoor

As you can see, we are still missing our most vital position - President-elect. Please consider stepping into this position and seeing how you can really affect your student's life through all that the PTA achieves. 🍷

## Box Tops Contest Continues

Congratulations to John Angelo Carver in Ms. Down's 4th grade class! His Box Tops collection sheet was chosen by Mrs. Toatley in February as our second winner of the Box Tops Collection Contest. John Angelo won a special Lunch Bunch with Mrs. Toatley and 3 friends.

Please continue to submit your collection sheets. Our final drawing, for a Class Party with Sno-cones and a movie, will take place in May. Additional information and collection sheets can be found on the PTA website at [www.hwpta.org](http://www.hwpta.org). 🍷

### Japan Disaster Relief Fund

HWES Junior Girl Scout Troop 1931 is raising money for ShelterBox USA to help in Japan. ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that is actively working in Japan to provide help to the people who have been affected by the triple disaster: earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis. Each ShelterBox costs about \$1,000, and gives ten people somewhere to live and basic household supplies, including a stove and water purification.

Through Wednesday, April 6 you can send in a donation to school in an envelope marked "Japan Fundraiser." Cash is welcome or checks can be made out to ShelterBoxUSA, Inc. You can also donate online at any time by using the troop's ShelterBox webpage:

[www.tinyurl.com/hwshelter](http://www.tinyurl.com/hwshelter). The girls of Troop 1931 thank you for your generous support! 🐾

### Yearbooks Are On Sale Now...

...for \$20, and copies are going fast! Hunters Woods is the only elementary school in Fairfax County that has a yearbook completely produced by students. Don't miss out on this beautiful book! There are a limited number of copies, and they MUST be preordered.

Go to [www.hwpta.org](http://www.hwpta.org) to order online or to download a form and pay by check. Please also consider making a donation for our scholarship students. 🐾

### Upcoming Appreciation Weeks

Office and Clinic Staff Appreciation Week is the week of April 25-29, 2011. Appreciation week is a time when we can acknowledge these individuals for their dedication, commitment, and support of our Hunters Woods principals, teachers, staff, students, and families! Please take the time during this week to let our office and clinic staff know how much we appreciate ALL they do!

Volunteers are needed to work on the Office and Clinic Staff Appreciation Week committee. Please contact Lisa Gordon at [clinic@hwpta.org](mailto:clinic@hwpta.org) if you are able to work on the committee.

Then, Teacher Appreciation Week is the week of May 2-6. Classroom teachers will get lots of love and attention, but please help the Hunters Woods PTA in our goal to make sure that ALL Hunters Woods teachers feel the appreciation our students and parents have for them. Please select a teacher from the list at [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/specialist1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/specialist1) to do something special for at least one day during Teacher Appreciation Week. 🐾

### Camp Information Available

Did you know that helpful information for parents, including about local summer camps, can be found on the HWES PTA webpage? Check out the "Parents" link at [www.hwpta.org](http://www.hwpta.org) for information about summer FCPS programs, band camps at area schools, and sports camps offered at South Lakes High School. 🐾

### The Spring Book Fair is Coming!

The PTA Spring Book Fair will be held on May 2- 6. It will be located in the Second Grade Pod and will be open all week during school hours as well as evening hours on Thursday May 5 (the night of the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance Informance).

Look for information on the exciting books available in an upcoming Tuesday folder. Each classroom will have an opportunity 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). While previewing the books, students make a wish list to bring home to the parents.

Parents and siblings are welcome any time during our open hours. Bookworm provides us a terrific selection of books. This is a great opportunity to come out and support the PTA. Don't forget that teacher appreciation week is the week of the book fair - you might want to check out the teacher wish lists and purchase some books for your teacher's classroom.

Volunteers will be needed for this event. You can sign up to volunteer at the following link:

[www.signupgenius.com/go/spring828](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/spring828).

Thanks from the Book Fair Committee! 🐾

### From Our PTA Treasurer

Please note there are new forms on the PTA website - there are new, simplified check request, deposit and cash box forms and procedures. If you are in need of any of these forms for your events or activities, please use the new forms.

As the school year heads into the home stretch, please be sure to submit your requests for reimbursements for any expenses incurred for PTA business early. It is a big help if we can take care of paperwork now, before busy spring activities and the end of the year. If you haven't already done so, please submit any outstanding items you may have by April 15, 2011.

As always, for any questions please contact Doug Kaspar, PTA Treasurer, at:

[treasurer@hwpta.org](mailto:treasurer@hwpta.org). 🐾

### Va. Chess Championships

2011 Virginia Scholastic & Collegiate Chess Championships were held on March 19-20, 2011 in Yorktown, Virginia. HWES chess club players James Kuang, Nitin Ramachandran, Sarah Slate, and Kevin Xu attended the K-5 group competition; Parv Ahuja, Mandip Bhadra, Michael Chang, Kaizen Conroy, Nikhil Daga, Joseph Hall, Akhil Madhugiri, Rehan Madhugiri, and Jason Liu attended the K-8 group competition.

HWES won 6<sup>th</sup> place out of a total of 23 school teams in K-5 group and 5<sup>th</sup> place out of a total of 22 school teams in K-8 group. For the best individual record for HWES students, Sarah Slate won 18<sup>th</sup> place in K-5 group, and Jason Liu won 26<sup>th</sup> place in K-8 group. Congratulations to our HWES chess club teams for their terrific performance! 🐾

**♥ Teacher Feature! ♥**

Fourth in a series of articles written by students to spotlight the fantastic teachers who make our school such a great place to be. Special thanks to 2<sup>nd</sup> grader Hazel Vineet for contributing this article!

**Lisa Germani, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher**

Ms. Germani, an energetic talker, is very beautiful and kind. She was born on June 8. She grew up in Yardley, Pennsylvania and went to college at James Madison University in Virginia. Since she was young, Ms. Germani wanted to be a teacher. You know why? If not, let us find out together. Ms. Germani likes working with children. They make her smile. She has been a teacher for a total of six years and she has been at Hunter Woods for four years (Yeah!)

Now let us learn a little bit about Ms. Germani's likes and dislikes. Her favorite teacher was Ms. Williams, because she never yelled. Her favorite T.V. show is Gray's Anatomy, and her favorite ice cream is cookies and cream. Her worst subject was social studies and best was math. If she were to be an animal, it would be a bird, so that she can see far away. She can be found cooking something yummy on a Saturday morning. Yes, she is a very good cook. Her favorite vacation was Acapulco, Mexico; her summer break plans for this year are to visit the New Jersey shore. If Ms. Germani could dine with a historical person, it would be with Helen Keller.

It is a pleasure to be in Ms. Germani's class; she is a wonderful teacher! ♥

**TECHSTRAVAGANZA!**

Techstravaganza is a science, technology, math, and engineering exploration day at TJHSST. Students will have the opportunity to conduct hands-on science experiments and witness demonstrations. It is intended for upper elementary and middle school students. Activities are run by TJHSST students and faculty, as well as professionals from sponsoring organizations, such as Exxon Mobil and SAIC.

The event will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011, from 12 noon-4pm at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22312. Please feel free to spread the word of this event, and think about bringing family and friends. Techstravaganza is free and open to everyone!

If you have any questions, email [twistcoordinators@gmail.com](mailto:twistcoordinators@gmail.com) or visit: <http://activities.tjhsst.edu/twist>. ♥

**Reflections Award of Merit**

Many congratulations to Seungwon Baek, who received the Award of Merit recognition (Visual Art/Intermediate) at the Reflections 2011-11 Northern Virginia District level! All winners will be recognized at a reception that will be organized by the District in April. We commend Seungwon for this fantastic achievement! ♥

**County Spelling Bee**

Congratulations to our HWES Spelling Bee champion, Jae Canetti, for his strong showing in the county-wide spelling bee competition. Jae, who is in Ms. Paulson's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, competed in the Fairfax County Spelling Bee on March 20, 2011 and, after an amazing 22 rounds, placed second in the competition!

To prepare for the bee, Jae studied over 10,000 words and learned many spelling rules and etymology. Join us in applauding Jae for a job well done! ♥

**Volunteering at HWES**

The PTA has an overwhelming amount of volunteer opportunities available to parents who would like to get involved, including PTA/School Support, In-School Assistance, and Educational Support. To learn about all our opportunities, please visit the PTA website at [www.hwpta.org/volunteer](http://www.hwpta.org/volunteer).

Following is a list of open Committee Chair positions available for next year. Please consider taking on a new position or co-chairing one with a friend. All PTA Programs and Activities have dedicated e-mail addresses, which allow parents and volunteers to contact the PTA Committee Chair directly. If you would like to VOLUNTEER, please contact the committee you are interested in working with or contact our VP of Volunteers - Alexis Shield ([VP4@hwpta.org](mailto:VP4@hwpta.org)) to learn more about each committee. There is a plan of work already in place and sample flyers for all of our committees to help you understand what each does in more detail. Please take advantage of this opportunity to chair a PTA committee and make a difference at our school!

**AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES -**

[afterschool@hwpta.org](mailto:afterschool@hwpta.org)

2010-11 PTA Chair - Kathy Calloway

**NEED CHAIRS FOR 2011-2012**

The After School Programs at HWES are comprehensive - offering sports, art, acting and chess to all students. The chair creates the Fall and Spring Catalog of classes, contracts with instructors, files Community Use forms with FCPS, deposits registration monies and creates class rosters. The After School Program provides services to over 200 students a semester and is a vital part of the environment of fun and education at the school.

**APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION**

**COMMITTEES -** [VP4@hwpta.org](mailto:VP4@hwpta.org)

**NEED CHAIR FOR:** Staff and Clinic Aid Appreciation Week **2011** and 2012

This committee will organize activities and tokens of appreciation for our excellent staff throughout the year. These include the Teacher Back to School Breakfast in August; Bus Drivers/Crossing Guards, Clinic Aids, Custodial/Cafeteria Workers, Office Administrative Staff, and Principals appreciation days; and the annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon held in May.

**FAMILY FUN EVENTS - [VP4@hwpta.org](mailto:VP4@hwpta.org)**

*OPEN CHAIR POSITIONS FOR 2011-2012:* Bingo night co-chair, Spring Dance Chairs, Open House Social Chairs, International Night Chairs, and Fall Dance Chairs.

Family fun events need volunteers to assist in preparing, organizing and executing events. These events make our Hunters Woods community special, but they need your support to be successful. Please sign up to donate your time and creativity! We have many past chairs who would be more than willing to assist you in making your event a success. Want to see how we plan events? Read our Events 101 document!

**HOSPITALITY - [hospitality@hwpta.org](mailto:hospitality@hwpta.org)**

2010-11 PTA Chairs - Alexis Shield & Debbie Anguizola

**NEED CHAIRS FOR 2011-2012**

Volunteers are needed to help set up coffee and donated food items at various school functions (PTA meetings, Principal's coffees, orientations, and newcomer's coffee) and/or clean up following the event.

**HUNTERS WOODS APPAREL SALES - [apparel@hwpta.org](mailto:apparel@hwpta.org)**

2010-11 PTA Chairs - Raba Letteri & Kelly Rowell

**NEED CHAIRS FOR 2011-2012**

Help with the selling of Hunters Woods t-shirts and sweatshirts at various school functions. Check and distribute orders to classrooms.

**HUNTERS HORN NEWSLETTER (monthly) - [newsletter@hwpta.org](mailto:newsletter@hwpta.org)**

2010-11 PTA Chair - Cynthia Cook

**NEED CHAIR FOR 2011-2012**

Publishes the PTA's monthly newsletter during the school year to help disseminate information and news vital to negotiating our large Hunters Woods school and community. The chair collects articles during the month and edits them into a newspaper-like format. All work can be done from home.

**INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL - [international@hwpta.org](mailto:international@hwpta.org)**

2010-11 PTA Chairs - Cheryl Finley & Jessica Lewis

**NEED CHAIRS FOR 2011-2012**

This committee will organize and present the exciting International Celebration, an evening that showcases countries and cultures from around the world.

**LOST AND FOUND - [lost@hwpta.org](mailto:lost@hwpta.org)**

2010-11 PTA Chairs - Jeri Thomas & Amy Guerber

**NEED CHAIRS FOR 2011-2012**

The co-chairs help to sort through lost items and return labeled items to their owners. Each quarter, the co-chairs set up the lost and found during evenings when parents will be visiting the school. Twice a year, the co-chairs organize the cleaning of all unclaimed clothing and donate all articles to charity.

**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND - [odyssey@hwpta.org](mailto:odyssey@hwpta.org)**

2010-11 PTA Chair - Courtney Wilson

**NEED CHAIRS FOR 2011-2012**

Coordinators needed (2)--Coordinator presents information night for parents, forms teams, assures school membership in OotM organization, and acts as liaison between school teams and OotM organization. Most work can be done out of school on own time. (Commitment August-March).

Coaches needed--An after-school program consisting of teams, which are coached by parent volunteers for competition in creative thinking and problem solving. This fun and rewarding program requires a once-a-week commitment with additional time required as the competition draws near. Time and place are flexible, decided upon by coach and parents. (Commitment October-March).

**OPEN HOUSE - WELCOME BACK SOCIAL - [openhouse@hwpta.org](mailto:openhouse@hwpta.org)**

2010-11 PTA Chair - Kathleen Castro and Tracy Meleski

**NEED CHAIRS FOR 2011-2012**

The Open House Social is a vital first glimpse of our school for new students and a great return from summer break for our veteran students. This social provides a venue to sell PTA memberships, meet and greet friends and buy school apparel.

**REFLECTIONS (Fall) - [reflections@hwpta.org](mailto:reflections@hwpta.org)**

2010-11 PTA Chair - Sridevi Settipalli

**NEED CHAIRS FOR 2011-2012**

Volunteers advertise and promote the PTA Reflections Program, which encourages students to explore their artistic talents in six different areas for fun and recognition. PTA Chairs collect applications and finished pieces of art, music, or writing to be judged at the school level and then send the school winners on to compete at the county level.

**SPELLING BEE - [spelling@hwpta.org](mailto:spelling@hwpta.org)**

2010-11 PTA Chairs - Rasha Bawab and Kelly Rowell

**NEED CHAIRS FOR 2011-2012**

The school spelling bee is a joint effort between the school Reading Resource teacher and two dedicated co-chairs. The Reading Resource teacher is in charge of pre-testing the students in grade 3-6. Each class has two representatives invited to participate in the spelling bee. Three after-school practice sessions are organized over the months of November through January. The Spelling Bee takes place the first week of February.

**TUESDAY FOLDER COPYING - [tuesdayfolder@hwpta.org](mailto:tuesdayfolder@hwpta.org)**

2010-11 PTA Chair - Karen Browning

**NEED CHAIRS FOR 2011-2012**

Volunteers are needed to help with copying on an as-needed basis. The risograph is a machine that makes rapid, high quantity copies (usually needed for Tuesday Folder flyers). Training is provided.