

Hunters Horn

Back to School 2006

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President's Message

Maureen Becker

Can you believe another summer has flown by and a new school year is beginning? As pool time gave way to school clothes shopping our PTA was hard at work getting ready for the new year!

On August 28 the PTA hosted a wonderful welcome back breakfast for the Hunters Woods staff, organized by Tricia Graves. The tables were overflowing with baked goods, egg casseroles, sausages, and fruit all donated by the generous families of Hunters Woods. At the Open House on Thursday, August 31, the students had the chance to meet with their new teachers. Afterwards families were able to catch up over a pizza dinner—thanks to the Thrailkill and Evans families, who organized that event. Of course, the fun really began Friday morning, September 1, when the adage “many hands make light work” proved true as the huge task of preparing the first Tuesday folders was completed for the entire school. PTA volunteers, young and the old, were put to work to help make this big job go smoothly and quickly.

The proposed 2006–2007 PTA Budget will be presented at the September 13th, 8 PM PTA meeting, available on the PTA website following the meeting, and in the following Tuesday folder for your review. It will be voted on at the Back to School nights. If you have any questions or comments about the budget please feel free to contact me at president@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.

We are fortunate at this school to have many volunteers committed to the enhancement of our children's education. Through a wide variety of PTA-sponsored activities and committees we are able to meet everyone's interests. Whether you can offer a long-term commitment of time—for

example, by serving on the executive board—or even several hours of your time volunteering at one of our community events—like our annual Sock Hop—we have opportunities for you! You'll find helping our children by being involved with our school is an extremely rewarding experience. Please visit our website at www.HuntersWoodsPTA.org and check out what we are doing this year. Also look for information on volunteering in the Tuesday Folders. We encourage all to join us at the PTA meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of most months starting at 7:30 PM. This month is at 8 PM on the 13th.

Also, a big thanks goes out to the new PTA Executive Board. These volunteers have stepped up their commitment to our PTA to take on these positions. The new board is Susan Sather and Susan Brownsword as Vice Presidents, Deborah Lannen as Treasurer, Jennifer Arakelian as Recording Secretary, and Marina Matthes as Corresponding Secretary. They are devoted to helping all of our children and supporting our school.

I am excited to be your PTA president for this school year. I am looking forward to continuing the PTA collaboration with the teachers, staff, and administration of Hunters Woods.

Sally Foster Returns!

Support Hunters Woods by purchasing your gifts, gift wrap, and Harry London chocolates from Sally Foster! Along with getting high-quality items, this is the largest PTA fundraiser of the year, with 50% of sales coming back to us to fund the PTA programs for the school. Catalogs and order forms will be going home with students on Tuesday, September 12. Included in your catalog, as a gift from Sally Foster, are over \$150 in savings coupons from other retailers. Orders will be due October 4. For the safety of our students, we do not encourage door-to-door sales.

You can also order online at www.sallyfoster.com. The Hunters Woods account number is 0142037. Send emails to friends and family from the website and be eligible to win an Apple iPod, a Game Boy Advance, or an Xbox360 (details online). For a limited time, all Internet orders over \$60 will be shipped for free. *Hunters Woods PTA will continue to receive 50% from Internet sales throughout the school year.*

Co-chairs Cathy Uhrig, Nancy Mamros, and Eleanor Weis can be reached at giftwrap@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.

School Calendars Available

Wonder when the next PTA meeting will be held? Want to mark your calendar to plan travel around your child's band performances? Purchase a Hunters Woods Elementary School calendar for only \$5, and you'll have that information at your fingertips. The calendar is preprinted with all scheduled school events for the entire school year, school holidays, and other important dates. Order your copy with the form for PTA Membership, or buy one at the PTA table at school events this fall.

September Events

- 12** Sally Foster Gift Wrap Sale Begins
- 13** 3rd Grade Parent Strings Orientation 7 PM
PTA Meeting 8 PM (note later start time for strings orientation)
- 19** Volunteer Fair 9:30 AM and 7 PM (attend only one)
- 26** Grades K–3 Parent Coffee 6 PM
Grades K–3 Back-to-School Night 7 PM
- 27** Grades 4–6 Parent Coffee 6 PM
Grades 4–6 Back-to-School Night 7 PM

October Events

- 4** Principal's Coffee 6 PM
PTA Meeting 7 PM
- 9** No School—Columbus Day
- 12** School Picture Day
- 13** Sock Hop 7 PM

Volunteer Fair

Everyone interested in volunteering through the PTA is invited to attend either of the 9:30 AM or 7 PM Volunteer Fairs on Tuesday, September 19. Come explore the different opportunities, receive information about TB testing and pose for a volunteer ID badge. Snacks and door prizes will be offered, along with information about volunteer jobs ranging from coordinating a large event to leading small one-time jobs. There are jobs that are social, and offer the opportunity to meet new friends, and others that can be done from home, without ever requiring your physical presence at a meeting. We'll even showcase jobs ideal for parents with small children in tow. Come to the Fair, and find the job that fits you best.

Lost & Found

Please take a moment to mark you child's name (last name at a minimum) on their coats, jackets, sweaters, gloves, and sweatshirts—as well as on their backpacks, lunch boxes, notebooks, and any other belongings that can be separated from their bodies during school.

The Importance of PTA Membership

So, have you purchased your PTA membership yet? Why should you, you ask—well beyond all the things the PTA is doing at our school, it does much more at the state and national level. The PTA speaks with one voice before presidents, governors, congress, state legislatures, and federal agencies on behalf of every child. With over 6 million members, that one voice can have a lot of influence.

And, what is the PTA doing? Some of the exciting plans for the coming year include a wide variety of *After School Activities*, *Snickerdoodle* (Literary Magazine), *Sock Hop* in October, *Fall Festival* in November, *Book Fairs* in December and May, *Plant Sale* in Winter and Spring, , *International Festival* in February, and a *School Play*, *Talent Share* and *Silent Auction* in March and *Bingo Night* in May. To help you keep on top of all these activities you can purchase a PTA calendar with these and other important dates. The calendar can be purchased along with a membership to the PTA, each costing only \$5.

School Spirit for Sale

Don't forget to show your school spirit by buying some Hunters Woods apparel. There are t-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, hats, and more for sale. Look for an order form to come home soon. Thanks to Mary Ellen Wolf and Raba Letteri for heading up this committee. If you have any questions please email merchandise@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.

Want to Bring Back Hands-on Science?

How about Girls on the Run? Here's how: The volunteer/parent coordinators for these popular after-school offerings have moved on to other pursuits with our thanks and appreciation. Thus, these classes are not available for the Fall after-school program. If you would like to see either of these classes return to HWES and are willing to be a coordinator, please contact Mary Malzahn at 703-716-0717

or at afterschool@HuntersWoodsPTA.org to find out more. Coordinators typically handle the administrative matters required to offer an after-school class. They do not typically teach the class.

Volunteer Fair

Save the date – Tuesday, September 19th two convenient times – 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Come to the Volunteer Fair to learn all the exciting opportunities available at Hunters Woods to be involved in your child's education and in your school community! Committee chairs will be available to answer all your questions and help you find the best volunteer "fit" for your time and talents. Door Prize drawings for all attending, bring a friend and earn an extra chance!! The fair will include a brief volunteer orientation in which the TB test procedures are explained, pictures are taken for volunteer badges and sign in procedure explained.

Girl Scouting

The Girl Scout Program offers many exciting opportunities. Girls learn together and participate in activities, help their community, make new friends, and learn more about themselves—all while having the time of their lives! Contact Debbie Szymczyk for information about troops for girls from kindergarten through sixth grade at 703-707-9644 or email her at szymczyk@erols.com.

Parent Photographers

Yes, school is just starting, but we need you digital shutterbugs out there to share your photos of school events starting with the first day of school. High-resolution versions (min. 500Kb; max. 3Mb) of photos can be sent to yearbook@HuntersWoodsPTA.org. Please, if possible, name the files as follows before emailing: `yymmdd_initials_description` (e.g., a picture of bus riders taken on the first day of school by me, Blakely Meyers, would be named `060905_bgm_ridingthebus`). This will help us keep the incoming pictures organized and ensure they get considered when the relevant pages are assembled. We will start putting pages together in mid-October, so please don't wait to send your photos!

This year, for the first time, a small group of 6th graders will help produce the school yearbook. There will be a selection process to choose the yearbook editorial staff; 6th graders will hear more about this in late September. We also need several adult volunteers to work with the 6th grade editorial staff to digitally edit, crop, and compose page collages using Photoshop, as well as to handle all the administrative tasks around selling and producing yearbook. If you are interested in being a part of the yearbook team, please email your interest to yearbook@HuntersWoodsPTA.org or update your Keep-in-Touch profile to indicate "yearbook."

Advertise in the Directory

Advertise your business, service, or personalized message in our 2006–2007 Directory and Handbook. This book is a wonderful reference and is distributed to all students. It has class and alphabetical listings of students; plus it has school policies and other pertinent information. Parents and students alike find this book a valuable tool and refer to it frequently. All ads must be in by Friday, September 15. Look for details on the flyer in today's packet.