



Hunters Horn



PTA Newsletter • Volume 43, Issue 4 • December 14, 2010

President's Message

Hello Hunters Woods Families,

I would like to wish each of you a wonderful Holiday season and New Year! All of our families contribute to make our school the special place it is – full of fun, learning and friendship. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following PTA volunteers and committees:

- Marina Matthes and her group of volunteers for Picture Day and the Thanksgiving Luncheon!
- Spelling Bee Committee: Rasha Bawab, Kelly Rowell and reading resource teacher, Mrs. Stewart. They are busily getting students ready for the February School-wide Spelling Bee.
- Lost and Found Committee co-chairs Jeri Thomas and Amy Guerber. Read the article!
- Fall Harvest Hoe Down committee and all the volunteers who helped out!! Great job everyone! We had four middle schoolers volunteer too: Tabeer Singh, Justine Huh, Bonnie Nguyen and Muhamed Muradi. Also, I would like to thank music teacher Kara Feigleson, who let us use her room, and our custodial staff - Elizabeth, who helped set up and clean up! Read about the Hoe Down...
- Jeri Thomas, Kelly Rowell and Allison Rankin for their hard work producing the School Directory. WANT ONE? Become a Mustang Pride PTA member online NOW and get one FREE or order one from directory@hwpta.org for \$5.00.
- Lisa Groves and the Community Action Committee for the FISH Campaign. See how you have helped – read her article.
- Colleen Line, Kelly Horton Geer and Karen Browning for their techy-know how and for helping us all go green with Paperless Tuesday Folders. If you are not receiving your email notices – read how to fix it.
- Original Works chair - Jo Weschelblatt.
- Book Fair Committee - Eleanor Weis, Karen Browning, Shreeti Kapoor, Jo Weschelblatt and the many other volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the book fair a fantastic experience for the whole school – read the article.
- Legislative Chair – Paul Borst. Read his article about changes coming for FCPS.
- Hunters Horn Newsletter Editor - Cynthia Cook.

As I write my list of thank you's, I am continually impressed with how many

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, Dec. 15	Chamber Concerts
Thursday, Dec. 16	Group Pictures
Friday, Dec. 17	Sweet Shoppe
Tuesday, Dec. 21	Class Parties
Wednesday, Dec. 22	Two hour early release
Thursday, Dec. 23 –	Winter Break
Friday, Dec. 31	(no school)
Tuesday, Jan. 11	Winter Strings Concert (Grades 4-6)
Wednesday, Jan. 12	Winter Band Concert (Grades 4-6)
Thursday, Jan. 13	Winter Chorus Concert (Grades 4-6)
Monday, January 17	MLK Jr. Holiday
Thursday, Jan. 20	PTA Meeting, 7pm
Friday, January 21	International Festival
Thursday, Jan. 27	Winter Strings Concert (Grade 3)
Friday, January 28	End of 2 nd Quarter
January 31 and	Teacher Workdays
February 1	(Student Holidays)

volunteers step up to help and make a difference in big and little ways. Their volunteer efforts are felt every day in the atmosphere of our school, the happiness of our students and the job satisfaction of our staff and teachers.

If you have been dying to volunteer and cannot seem to find your perfect job – contact me, president@hwpta.org, or Alexis Shield, vp4@hwpta.org. I know that sometimes people try to volunteer and may feel not included or unable to get through the system to make the impact they would like to make. Please remember, we are all volunteers and busy parents – give us a try and we will work with you to help you contribute in a meaningful way.

All the Best,

Jennifer Arakelian, PTA President

President@hwpta.org 📧

Holiday Sweet Shoppe - Dec. 17!

Love to bake? Grateful for our HW teachers and staff? It's time for our annual Holiday Sweet Shoppe! You provide the baked goods or dried fruit and nut treats, and we'll provide containers for the staff to bring their goodies home. On **Friday, December 17**, from 8am to 2pm, we'd like to thank our teachers and staff for all of the work they do. We'd also love to display hand-made cards from the kids to the teachers and staff. Please send in your goodies on the morning of the 17th. Kiss and Ride will have collection tables on the 16th and the 17th, or you can bring your items directly to the teacher's lounge. Contact sweetshop@hwpta.org if you have questions or if you can volunteer to help. 📧

🍏 **Teacher Feature!** 🍏

This is the first in a new series of articles written by students to spotlight some of many fantastic teachers who make our school such a great place to be. Special thanks to 4th grader Kathryn Evans for submitting this article!

Molly Downs, 4th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Downs was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She went to Michigan University for college, and her favorite subject in school was literature. Her worst subject that she hated was calculus. And, her favorite teacher was her French teacher – he made it fun!

When she was a kid, she wanted to be a teacher when she grew up. I’m glad she did and became my teacher. Mrs. Downs decided to become a teacher because she loves working with kids. She’s been a teacher for 22 years.

Her favorite ice cream is butterscotch ripple. Her favorite book is *Cold Sassy Tree*, and her favorite TV show is *Glee*. She likes to spend her free time playing with her granddaughter. Her favorite thing to do on weekends is reading – like me! She makes pottery, a surprise to us students! Her favorite vacation was going to St. John with her family.

Mrs. Downs is a really interesting person, and I think she’s awesome! 🍏

Hunters Horn Readers’ Contest

The Hunters Horn readers’ contest continues again this month. Look for randomly selected students’ names embedded in articles from this issue of the Hunters Horn. If you see your child’s name in brackets (e.g., [First Last], to distinguish the contest winners’ names from general mentions of students that may appear in other articles) you will win a Hunters Woods spirit T-shirt for your child! To collect your child’s prize, please send an email to newsletter@hwpta.org with your name and your child’s name, teacher and desired T-shirt size. 🍏

Box Tops Contest Update

Congratulations to David Siamon in Ms. Donnelly’s 4th grade class! His Box Tops collection sheet was chosen by Ms. Toatley as our first winner of the Box Tops Collection Contest. David received a \$10 gift certificate to the Book Fair.

Please continue to submit your collection sheets. The next drawing will take place in February and the winner will receive a Lunch Bunch with Ms. Toatley and three friends. Our final drawing, for a Class Party with Sno-cones and a movie, will take place in May. Additional collection sheets can be found on the PTA website at www.hwpta.org. 🍏

Class Holiday Parties are Coming

HWES will be celebrating the Holidays and the Holiday Break with Class Parties on December 21st. Keep an eye out for an email from your student’s room parent and remember that these class parties are a big event around the school! [Rishi Saranu] Please make an effort to volunteer where necessary and donate where able to make this a special day for all! 🍏

Please Check Lost & Found

The holidays are busy, hectic times for the whole family, and kids are more likely to forget items at this time. These lost items are rapidly filling up the school’s storage space. Please stop by the school to check the Lost and Found closet when you notice that something is missing. Your students are allowed to look for items as well.

PTA volunteers will be displaying all items during the class parties on Dec. 21st and all day Dec. 22nd. Any items remaining unclaimed as of December 23 will be donated to charity. 🍏

Spring After School Activities

Parents, please keep an eye out for the new After School Activities catalog for the Spring 2011 session. The new catalog will be coming home with students prior to the Winter Break. Registration will start Monday, January 3rd and end on Friday, January 14th.

The Spring line-up will include our loved favorites such as Science, Basketball and Art, as well as the much anticipated return of Ping Pong and Ballet and the very welcome newcomers All Sports and Lego Robotics. Copies of the new catalog will also be posted to the PTA website by the Registration Date.

Any questions concerning the After School Activities should be directed to afterschool@hwpta.org. 🍏

Important eNews Information

We have recently learned that the school does not have email addresses for many families. The PTA uses information from the school to connect to all our parents. We send out weekly updates to parents via email on all the important happenings at school.

If you are not getting these messages - a weekly eNews and if applicable, the Paperless Tuesday Folder e-mail – please log on to <http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=sdqfe4dab&p=oi&m=1103777415282> to register your e-mail. You should also make sure to add eNews@hwpta.org to your “safe senders” list. If you need support, please contact us at eNews@hwpta.org and we will try to help you walk through the process. 🍏



International Night Needs You!

The next Family Fun event is the **International Festival**, which will be held on **Friday, January 21** from 6-8:30pm. In addition to the traditional country booths, games and crafts, two professional groups will be performing that evening: a barbershop quartet and a band from Bolivia. Everyone is encouraged to wear cultural costumes. This is a fun night for the whole family and free to attend.

We are looking for volunteers to help celebrate our school's cultural diversity at the International Festival. There are many ways to help: set up a booth/table to represent a country, bring games and crafts, provide food and recipes, and share traditional songs, dance or stories. For more information or to help, email International@hwpta.org.

Family Fun at the Fall Hoe Down

The Fall Harvest Festival looked and sounded a little different this year. Instead of the normal fun fair, the PTA presented a Square Dance with a few games. This switch meant that a lot fewer volunteer hours went into the event, but families still got to have a fun time together.

The dance featured a caller and live band, a few skill games, and randomly spaced cake walks. During the cake walk, the person standing on the lucky spot when the music ended got to select one of the gorgeous cakes from the Cake Decorating Contest to take home and enjoy. Admission to the event included unlimited food and drinks.

Family Fun activities are an economical way to have a fun outing with your family. They're also a great place to interact with the families of your children's classmates and the Hunters Woods staff. More than a dozen staff members were there dancing and enjoying the day.

Over 250 people came out for the event, and we are looking for feedback about whether you would enjoy having a square dance again in the future. Please send comments to VP2@hwpta.org if you would like to see this become a regular part of the Hunters Woods schedule, or if you have suggestions of other Family Fun events.

Big Thanks from FISH!

The HWES Community Outreach Committee appreciates your generous contributions and strong support of the (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help) **FISH for Food drive**. Non-perishable food donations from our school were used to fill Holiday Food Boxes for local families in need. Your efforts help ensure that everyone has healthy and happy meals during the in November and December school breaks. Thank YOU!

Fall Book Fair a Success

The PTA Fall Book Fair was a wonderful success, thanks to the more than 45 volunteers who guided each student to books they might like, to the teachers who shared their love for reading with their students, to the office staff who patiently helped with the questions that arose, and to the many parents who sent money in so their children could bring home a book. Because of the PTA's Book Fair, more than 120 children received free books, and teachers and staff benefited from \$550 in discounts and books for their classroom libraries. Thank you to everyone for making it a success, and happy reading from the Book Fair Committee!

Art for Humanity Charity

Thank you to the sixth grade class for helping to deliver over 300 pairs of shoes for the Art for Humanity Charity to help people of Honduras. Ben Wagner and his sister, Emma delivered all the shoes to Glen and Karen Evans and helped load it into the trailer that will eventually be delivered via crates on a boat to Honduras. A HUGE Thank you also to Mrs. Sink's class for helping load all those shoes into the car! Great job 6th graders!!

We're on Facebook!

The HWES PTA is now on facebook! Join us to stay informed and collaborate on school events. Already on facebook? Search for Hunter's Woods PTA and choose the **Like** button. HWES updates and reminders will now appear on the News Feed page of your facebook account. Not on facebook? Go to <http://www.facebook.com> to set up an account. Contact facebook@hwpta.org with questions.

Chess Club Tournament Win

On November 20, 2011, members of the Hunters Woods Chess Club participated in the Elementary Charity Team Chess Tournament held at the U.S. Chess Center in Washington D.C. Our school's team consisted of the following students:

- Mandip Bhadra (6th) - won all 4 games
- Joey Hall (6th) - won all 4 games
- Nikhil Daga (6th) - won all 4 games
- Sarah Slate (5th)
- Michael Tischler (5th)
- Nathan Tankel (5th)
- Jared Tankel (4th)
- David Siamon (4th)

We are so proud of the team, which placed 1st place out of 27 schools!! Please stop to look at the large trophy displayed in the school foyer. Congratulations to our chess team and for all of the hard work that the instructors and parent volunteers led by Laura Bhadra do to maintain our well-attended chess club as a strong program.

Reflections 2010-11 Winners for Hunters Woods Announced!

Kudos to all the participants in the Reflections 2010-11 season! We saw some really great entries across all areas. Many congratulations to the winners:

- Visual Arts/Primary: 1st place - Jamie Kim, 2nd place - Megan Le
- Visual Arts/Intermediate: 1st place - Seung Won Baek, 2nd place Srinidhi Nagireddy
- Musical Composition/Intermediate: 1st place - Amanda Raether, 2nd place - Colin Carmody
- Literature/Primary: 1st place - Hazel Vineet
- Literature/Intermediate: 1st place - Victoria Sova
- Literature/Middle: 1st place - Ashley Tern
- Dance Choreography/Intermediate: 1st place - Hannah Casey
- Photography/Intermediate: 1st place - Brandon Leggott.

All participants received certificates and ribbons to recognize their fantastic efforts!!!

All first place winners will be going on to the next level of judging - we wish them the very best and hope they continue their success! 🍀

FCCPTA Comments on the School Board's Review of Operational Expectations for FCPS

On November 11, the Fairfax County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (FCCPTA) submitted comments to the School Board on their Operational Expectations (OEs). The OEs are an important part of FCPS's governance system. [Kristen Fagan] The FCCPTA's comments were provided in order to give input to the School Board while they deliberate on changes and amendments to the OE. The main comments that the FCCPTA provided to School Board were:

- The Superintendent should issue annually a "strategies" document that differs from the State of School report. The strategies document would identify impacts to FCPS from multiple challenges and the approaches adopted and progress made towards meeting those challenges.
- Recruit and hire highly educated and qualified teachers from diverse backgrounds.
- Ensure that highly qualified teachers serve in low performing schools.
- Address higher than average rates of sick leave among FCPS employees possibly indicating sick building syndrome or poor management of facilities.

- Modify the language of the Community Relations OE to reflect ongoing collaborative communication between the Superintendent and the community and support home-school partnerships at every school.

A complete list of the School Board's proposed changes to the current OEs may be found at <http://www.fccpta.org/home/proposedoperationalexpectations>.

A summary of FCCPTA's view of the current OEs may be accessed at <http://www.fccpta.org/fcps/school-board/strategic-governance/operational-expectations---purpose>. 🍀

FCCPTA Spelling Bee Vacancy

Lisa Thomas, the FCCPTA/Fairfax County Spelling Bee 2011 nominal Chairperson, has had to resign from her position as the 2011 Fairfax County Spelling Bee Chairperson due to unforeseen circumstances unrelated to the chairmanship or administration of the bee.

The chairmanship position urgently needs to be filled. If it is not, then the 2011 County Spelling Bee is in danger of not being held. If five or more people step forward to form a committee and to help the new chairman, then his (or hers) will be a very part-time job. There is a trove of information and files from years past that can be passed on to the incoming chairperson and the committee as soon as a meeting can be arranged.

The chairmanship position is an excellent opportunity for networking and resume-building, despite its being a volunteer position. [Trevor Alvy] The chairman works directly with Steve Cahill, the editor of *The Fairfax County Times*, and Ramona Morrow, President of the FCCPTA.

Please consider whether you would be able to serve either as chairman or as a committee member. Giving our students the opportunity to compete in the National Spelling Bee is invaluable opportunity. If you would be interested in volunteering as the chairperson or as a committee person or for more information about what is involved, please e-mail, at your earliest convenience, Lisa Thomas at lmstomas89@gmail.com, Ramona Morrow (FCCPTA President) at president@fccpta.org, and/or Steve Cahill (Editor, *The Fairfax County Times*) at scahill@fairfaxtimes.com.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your continued service to your local spelling bees. 🍀

