



Hunters Horn



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President's Message

Hello Families and Students - Happy New Year! I am looking forward to the rest of the school year and our many special events and activities. Bingo Night (February 11) and Skate Night (March 5) are right around the corner. These are great events for the entire family to join in as part of our HWES community. Make sure to put them on your calendar.

In other news, our next PTA meeting will provide time for discussing the 6th grade Advancement party and forming a committee. We will also hear from Arlene Smith of the Rising Stars Transition Program, in which our 6th graders will all participate in May. We hope that all sixth grade parents will come out to learn what to expect in the coming months.

I would like to thank some wonderful PTA Volunteers, who are making our school such a special place to be! First - thank you to all the parents who volunteer on a weekly basis as room parents, art assistants and Tuesday folder stuffers, to name just a few. Also - thank you to our committee volunteers:

- Marina Matthes and many other parent volunteers for the Thanksgiving Luncheon.
- Bonnie Silas, Alexis Shield and all the Room Parents, who worked so hard to coordinate and hold the holiday class parties.
- Jeri Thomas and Amy Guerber for cleaning out the Lost and Found and providing opportunities for us all to retrieve our student's possessions.
- Jeri Thomas and her committee volunteers for a wonderful Sweet Shoppe on Dec. 17th.
- Kathy Calloway for our wonderful lineup of Spring After-School classes.
- Jo Wechselblatt for Original Works.
- Cheryl Finley and Jessica Lewis for International Night.
- Raba Letteri and Susan Sather for volunteering to help Saturday School start with a bang.
- Rasha Bawab, Kelly Rowell and Mrs. Stewart for their hard work preparing the students for the upcoming Spelling Bee on February 3rd.
- Sridevi Settipalli for our Reflections Program.

Lastly, the PTA is looking for a few volunteers to work on the Nominating Committee. This committee is responsible for confirming current volunteer chairs and officers for the 2011-2012 school year and helping to fill open positions for next year. This committee works together to help strengthen and diversify our PTA! It is a short-term commitment (February-April) and can be done from the comfort of your own home computer. Volunteer by contacting Marina Matthes and Karen Montagne at nominating@hwpta.org.

Jennifer Arakelian, PTA President
President@hwpta.org

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, February 3	Spelling Bee
Tuesday, February 8	Magnet Information Night, 7pm
Friday, February 11	PTA Family Bingo Night, 7pm
Monday, February 14	Valentine's Day
Tuesday, February 15	Magnet Information Night - Snow Date
Wednesday, February 16	PTA Meeting, 7pm
Thursday, February 17	Primary Science Night
Monday, February 21	President's Day

Don't Miss It!

Bingo Night - Try your luck and win fun prizes at this annual family fun event this Friday, February 11 from 7-9pm. Entry is free to Mustang Pride members! (There is still time to join the Mustang Pride - see the article below). VOLUNTEERS for a shift from 6:30-8 or 8-9:30pm would be most welcome - contact Kelly Kroll at bingo@hwpta.org.

February PTA Meeting - Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday, February 16 at 7pm in the school library. Snacks and coffee are provided. Your student(s) is welcome to come and read in the library during the meeting. ON THE AGENDA: 6th Grade Advancement Party and Rising Stars Transition Program.

Career Day is Coming!!! - On Thursday, March 31, 2011 from 9am to 2:45pm, HWES will be hosting its 4th Annual Career Day. The goal of this event is to broaden our students' awareness of the world of work by introducing them to a diverse range of career options.

We are currently seeking volunteers from all career fields. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in presenting at Career Day, please complete the information on the flyer being sent home in Tuesday folders and return it to your child's teacher, or contact our school counselors by telephone or email: Pat Small (Grades K-3) at pssmall@fcps.edu or (703) 262-7475, and Garry Carter (Grades 4-6) at gcarter@fcps.edu or (703) 262-7452.

HWES Directories Now on Sale

HWES Directories are now available for purchase for \$5! You can order one online at www.hwpta.org, or send in a request through your child's Tuesday folder. Mustang Pride members get one free! To find out more about the Mustang Pride, read on... ☺

PTA Mustang Pride

If you haven't already, consider joining our HWES PTA Mustang Pride, where you support our students and school without having to sell products to your neighbors and family. Plus, Mustang Pride members get a complimentary PTA membership, directory, family admission to this Friday's Bingo Night, and more! Go to www.hwpta.org to sign up or for more information email membership@hwpta.org.

Teacher Feature!

Second in a series of articles written by HWES students to spotlight some of the many fantastic teachers who make our school such a great place to be. Special thanks to 5th grader Colin Carmody for this article!

Mrs. Donnelly, 4th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Donnelly, a chocolate chip mint-flavored ice cream lover, is an interesting and fun person with many other loves in her life. She loves her 2 dogs, Satch and Lincoln. She loves to play sports, including soccer, skiing, scuba diving, and softball. She has played soccer on a German European Club team. Her favorite song is "Somewhere over the Rainbow" and her favorite books are *Little Women* and *Anna Karenina*. She loves spending time with her friends, especially Mrs. Carter. Her perfect weekend is spent reading and relaxing. Luckily for us, she loves teaching.

Mrs. Donnelly decided in about third grade to become a teacher because she thought children should have good teachers. She went to Seattle Pacific University on a volleyball scholarship where she studied education, P.E. and history. She has taught all over the world, including Russia. Her travels have brought her exciting adventures. Some of her adventures include being under an avalanche during the middle of the night, under an erupting volcano, and in the middle of a war with her husband and son (all without getting hurt)! Mrs. Donnelly is special because she shares her stories about her experiences with her students and friends.

Nominate Your Super Teacher

Many of you know and appreciate at least one dedicated Virginia public school teacher who consistently goes the extra mile each day to serve their students and their communities. The Virginia Lottery, the Virginia PTA, and The Supply Room Companies [Amelia Flavin] also recognize that Virginia is brimming with these outstanding teachers. These three organizations have partnered for the fourth year in a row to bring you the "Virginia Lottery Super Teacher Awards."

Through this program, the Virginia Lottery will pay tribute to those educators who put smiles on their students' faces and who are shaping their futures. The Virginia Lottery will recognize eight teachers across the Commonwealth as "Super Teachers." [Carina Kong] Each winning teacher will receive a \$2,000 credit from the Supply Room Companies to outfit their classroom as well as a \$2,000 prize from the Virginia Lottery. This year, ONE lucky Super Teacher will win a Royal Caribbean International® seven-day European cruise for two, including airfare.

To nominate your "Super Teacher," please go to the Virginia Lottery Super Teacher website, <http://www.valottery.com/promotion/teacher/>. The nomination period launched January 3, 2011 and the submission deadline is February 14, 2011.

Cluster Level Reflections Results

HWES students continue to shine in the 2010-11 Reflections season! Many congratulations to our students who received recognition for their superb work at the Cluster level this season:

- **Brandon Leggott** (Photography-Intermediate) and **Seungwon Baek** (Visual Arts-Intermediate) received the Award for Outstanding Interpretation.
- **Hazel Vineet** (Literature-Primary) and **Hannah Casey** (Dance Choreography-Intermediate) received the Award of Excellence.
- **Ashley Tern** (Literature-middle division) received the Award of Merit.

Winners of the Award for Outstanding Interpretation will go on to compete at the District level. We wish them the very best and hope they continue their success!

Box Tops Contest Continues

Please continue to submit your Box Tops collection sheets. Each collection sheet will be submitted in our school-wide Box Tops contest. The next drawing will take place this month 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.

Stay Up to Date on Budget News

On January 6, Superintendent Jack D. Dale presented to the School Board a \$2.2 billion FY 2012 Proposed Budget with a projected enrollment of 177,416 students. The proposed budget includes an additional 258.4 positions to support changes in student demographics and projected membership growth of 2,120 students as well as market scale adjustments and step increases for all eligible employees following two years of frozen salaries.

You can go to the Fairfax County Public Schools website for more information on the FY 2012 budget, including a link to the most recent issue of the Bottom Line, a FCPS publication for parents that contains the latest budget news, facts, dates, and rumor busters to help the FCPS community [Neil Sankineni] better understand the budget and the budget process, at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2012.htm>.

Hunters Horn Readers' Contest

Look for randomly selected students' names embedded in articles of 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), let us know and you will win a Hunters Woods spirit T-shirt for your child! To collect your child's prize, send an email to newsletter@hwpta.org with your name and your child's name, teacher and desired T-shirt size.

