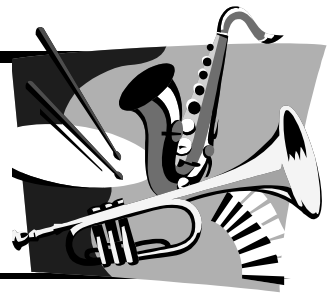


Hunters Horn

January 2007 Volume 39, Issue 5



President's Message

Maureen Becker

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing and restful winter break.

The PTA was very busy leading up to the holidays, and there are many people to thank for organizing all the activities. A huge thanks to Shreeti Kapoor, Eleanor Weis, and Andrew Chopivsky for organizing the Book Fair. We found ourselves without a book fair coordinator until these three stepped up just in time. Because of their hard work and the support of many volunteers the PTA was able to hold the book fair—making it available to all of our families. The PTA provided free books to over a hundred students who otherwise would not have been able to purchase them and sold books at cost to teachers in order to enhance their classroom and resource collections.

Also the week of the book fair the Hunters Woods community came together to enjoy the wonderful fundraiser-dinner provided by Carrabbas. Thanks to Angela Irwin for organizing that event. The PTA hosted the dinner at school along with the Math and Technology night organized by the teachers. The PTA provided free dinners to the teachers and staff of the school to show our appreciation for all they do.

The whole student body was treated to a presentation by local writer Hilary Hyland. She has written a book called *The Wreck of the Ethie*—the story of a ship caught in a December 1919 storm-of-the-century and the courage a Newfoundland dog. The writer brought her own Newfoundland dog in for all to see. The funding for this came from the PTA mini-grants program, which is designed to encourage teachers to request funds for programs and materials that will enhance student enrichment. Other recent mini-grants have been awarded for the musical/science group “Magpie” concert for the primary grades, materials for a 5th grade science activity on plant and animal cells, library carts and signage, and supplemental language arts and social studies materials for the 6th grade.

Mentioning all these events and fund raisers brings up the discussion at the PTA meeting on January 3. The PTA discussed what kind of fundraisers parents like, what they don't like and if we should do any fundraising at all. If you have any ideas or thoughts you'd like to contribute to the discussion please come to the February PTA meeting or email me at president@hunterswoodspta.org.

Two parents took on the mountainous Lost and Found, Mia

January Events

22 Auction Planning Meeting 7 PM

25-26 No School—Teacher Workday

February Events

3 International Celebration 6:30 – 8:30 PM

7 Principal's Coffee 6:30 PM
PTA Meeting 7:30 PM

13 Arts Integration Celebration K – 3, 7 PM

15 Arts Integration Celebration 4 – 6, 7 PM

Merin and Karla Chute. They dragged it all out onto tables for the Carrabbas and Math/Tech night, and then did it once again the following week for two days of viewing before all the unclaimed items were donated to charity. Please remember to label all your children's clothing; if it has a name on it there will be an attempt to return it to him or her.

Thanks to Susan Sather for organizing the Sweet Shoppe for the teachers. As usual the donations were overflowing, and the staff of Hunters Woods has expressed their gratitude in cards and in person to the PTA. Thanks also to Susan for putting together Skate Night, along with Annie Nasr; this event was fun for the whole family.

We have some exciting events the PTA is putting on the next few months. The International Celebration— when all of the Hunters Woods community comes together to share their heritage. The school play, “Music Man Jr.,” will be presented in February.

The Silent Auction, a favorite, is coming March 23.

Hope to see you around!

Arts Integration Celebration

Classes are preparing for the Arts Integration Celebration (AIC) the renamed and revamped Imagination Celebration, scheduled from February 13th–16th. This unique presentation shows how HWES teachers integrate fine arts with core curriculum objectives to address our students' many learning styles. It supports HWES participation in CETA (Changing Education Through the Arts) sponsored by the Kennedy Center. The celebration is coordinated this year by teachers Norma Morris (art) and Rachel Negri (science).

AIC Exhibits will be available to view throughout school hours and during special evening sessions. Set-up runs from Monday, January 29th to Friday, February 9th. Parent volunteers are needed from each class to help hang artwork. We have some interested volunteers but need more. Please contact Lisa Groves at AIC@HuntersWoodsPTA.org or 703-860-4632 if you would like to assist.

Greetings from Vermont

I wanted to thank everyone at HWES for a terrific send off as I enter a new chapter in my life. My last few weeks at school were filled with well wishes, good advice and kindness from students, staff and families. I can't tell you how much I miss HWES, especially as my own children enter VT public schools and I see the contrast and just how great HWES is and the amazing opportunities it offers children.

I would like to give a special thank you to the PTA for naming the sculpture garden in my honor (what a surprise!) and Ms. Toatley, Ms. Skerker and Ms. Mentzer and colleagues for everything they did for me and my family. If anyone would like to contact me I would love to hear from you. My new email is lisafoleys@gmail.com and remember if you are ever in the Burlington area stop by!

Lisa Foley and Family

International Celebration

The International Committee is excited to announce that it is planning the Hunters Woods International Celebration scheduled for Friday, February 2, 2007. Plan to come and enjoy this festival featuring food, fashion, dance, music, and a peek into the cultures of many countries represented by Hunters Woods families. The event is free of charge.

Families are encouraged to dress in clothing representing their native country or culture.

We need volunteers to help:

- Handle set-up, sign-in, and chaperone;
- Create visual displays of countries and cultures, help with crafts;
- Prepare tasty fare for the potluck;
- Show off talents in song, dance, music, and more;
- Clean up and take-down after the Celebration

We also need Child Volunteers to model cultural clothing for the fashion showcase—a highlight of the event!

Food for the event may be dropped off in the cafeteria between 3:30 – 6:30 PM, please include a list of ingredients so those with food allergies can be aware of the contents of each dish.

Please contact co-chairs Jessica Lewis and Raba Letteri at International@HuntersWoodsPTA.org with any questions.


National Recognition for HWES WordMasters


Three HWES 6th graders recently won highest honors in the National WordMasters Challenge. Congratulations to Amndee Mann, Hillary Liu, and Kiffa Conroy, who scored perfect papers in the first competition. Other students at the school who also achieved outstanding results were 3rd graders Sherry Feng, Edward Shan, Kyle Enriquez, and Katie Shen; and 6th graders David Keith and Andrew Kropp-Sullivan. All WordMasters teammates were winners in that they learned new words and worked on their critical thinking and analogy skills. Good luck in your next WordMasters challenge this winter! For more information, please email WordMasters@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.


Snickerdoodle

Snickerdoodle is Hunters Woods' very own student magazine, published each spring. Students from all grades are eligible to participate. Submissions are now being accepted; please turn them in to the special *Snickerdoodle* mailbox at the front office doorway.

To submit a manuscript, poem, or cartoon:

 Keep manuscript length under 1,000 words (approximately 3 pages double-spaced) for stories, or 35 lines for poetry. Comics are limited to four panels & must be in black ink on unlined paper.

 **PLEASE SUBMIT ONLY ONE ENTRY AND MAKE IT YOUR VERY BEST!**

 We prefer typed, double-spaced, manuscripts—we encourage the inclusion of n electronic copy on disk or CD — otherwise, all submissions should be neatly handwritten.

For more information visit www.hunterswoodspta.org.

Desktop Publishing Help Wanted

We are in dire need of a person(s) to do the desktop publishing of the Snickerdoodle publication in late March and early April.

Would you like to work with the students in putting the magazine together? Have questions? Please email snickerdoodle@hunterswoodspta.org or call Maureen Becker at 703-391-0164.

Silent Auction

Hunters Woods PTA puts on a Silent Auction fundraiser each year. Please plan to join us for an evening of food, fun, and bidding on items, experiences, and services donated from local businesses and Hunters Woods families.

The teachers pitch in by donating special one-on-one or small group activities, so parents can bid to win their child a special outing or activity with their teachers. Restaurants and stores donate gift certificates and items to appeal to every taste and budget.

Class Baskets

Each class pitches in toward the making of a Class Basket, with every student bringing in one item to fit in with a specific theme their class has chosen. This year, the auction committee will offer a Basket Making Party, where the parent coordinating the Class Basket can join us in the cafeteria with their basket goodies and get help with materials and basket creation. We will encourage most classes to split their items into a few smaller baskets, bringing the cumulative value and sales prices down to a more reasonable level than in previous years.

Movie Night

While the parents socialize and bid on the auction items, the children are entertained at our Movie Night. This year, we are considering having two separate movies, one geared toward younger kids, and another for the older ones. We are looking for someone to coordinate the Movie Night, a job that involves selecting the movies, arranging for popcorn and juice boxes, and sending out a flyer. Last year's coordinator will work with you. This is a great chance to get your feet wet with PTA volunteering as part of a larger one-time event.

Like to get stuff for free?

We are looking for a few (or many) good parents to solicit donations from local (and national) businesses. This job can be as simple as asking the local restaurant that you visit if they'd be willing to make a donation to the Hunters Woods Auction, or as involved as writing letters to the corporate headquarters of businesses like Target and Costco, which have local branches. A copy of our request letter is available on the PTA website at www.HuntersWoodsPTA.org for downloading.

Want to help?

Please come to a quick organizational and planning meeting on Monday, January 22 at 7 PM in the cafeteria to find a job that fits your schedule and personality, or email Auction@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.