

Hunters Horn



Volume 37, Issue 11

June 2005

President's Message—Cathy Uhrig

Thanks to everyone for all of their support in the activities sponsored by the PTA this school year. Many of you graciously work throughout the year on committees and as room parents for the benefit of our school and our children. It takes many hands to accomplish what we do every year, and they are all appreciated.

If you would like to be informed about what is happening this summer and plans for the fall, please sign up for Keep-in-Touch at www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES/index.htm, click on Keep-in-Touch, and follow the directions. You may also update your information at any time by going to the site and entering your email address. The summer PTA meetings have not yet been scheduled, but when they are in the next couple of weeks, a message will be sent out to all who are signed up for the PTA category.

Thanks for everything and good luck to all of our 6th graders and departing families. You have all left your mark on Hunters Woods.

To all returning families—have a wonderful summer! If you have questions, please feel free to contact any of the 2005–2006 PTA officers:

President: Cathy Uhrig

1st Vice President: Maureen Becker

2nd Vice President: Susan Sather

Treasurer: Susan Brownsword (Waters)

Recording Secretary: Nicole Irving

Corresponding Secretary: Deborah Lannen

Creative Opportunity:

Photographers - Artists - Writers - Musicians

Hunters Woods will be participating in the PTA National Contest called "Reflections." Summer is a great time to reflect on the theme and begin putting together ideas for an entry for next fall. The theme for next year is "I Wonder Why . . ." Remember—students can enter as many entries as they want and in all four categories!

There are guidelines for size restrictions and so on. We can send you a copy of last fall's details if your child will want to work on this over the summer. Contact Jody Wolfe at 703-715-0923 or jody.wolfe@comcast.net or Jane Kolb at 703-758-8018 or jlkolb@comcast.net

Snickerdoodle

The PTA provided each child with a copy of Snickerdoodle today. This literary magazine was produced and edited by the children of Hunters Woods. They are to be commended for such a wonderful publication. Committee chairs Rozanne Silverwood, Maribel Dobson, Ann Richards, April Ludtke, and Karen Berube were all instrumental through their assistance and guidance of the student editorial team to realize this immense and rewarding project. If you would like to purchase additional copies of the publication, please send in a check for \$10 (payable to HWES PTA) in an envelope with your child's name and teacher's name.

JUNE

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| 21 | Writers' Celebration
Grade 3 Movement Performance 7 p.m. |
| 22 | Grade 4 State Fair |
| 23 | Class Parties
Grade 6 Advancement Ceremony 7 p.m. |
| 24 | Last Day—Award Ceremony & Early Dismissal (11:05) |

What Does the PTA Do for You?

Have you ever wondered what your PTA does for you and your school? Here are some of the things the PTA has organized and funded this year:

- 6th Grade Luncheon
- Acting for Young Children
- Adopted a Sea Turtle for Primary grades
- After-School Activities
- Amazon.com Gift Certificates for New Teachers
- Book Fairs with teacher discounts
- Box Tops and Campbell's Labels Administration
- Calendar
- Chess
- Colonial Days
- Distance Learning
- Eastern Woodlands Indians presentation
- Electric Pencil Sharpener for each class and resource room
- End-of-Year Teacher Lunch
- Expressions Cart for Interactive Whiteboard Presentations (Smartboard station)
- Faculty Welcome Breakfast
- Fall Harvest Festival
- Family Bingo Night
- Field Trip Funds
- Grocery Receipt Administration
- Hands-On Science Support
- Hunters Horn Newsletter
- International Festival
- Jazzercise
- Jump Rope for Heart support and snacks
- Lego Robotics
- Library Funds
- Lunch Program Support
- Mark Pilato Sculpture
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Parent Education Programs
- Peer Mediator T-Shirts
- Phonemic Awareness
- Picture Day(s) Support
- Plant Sales
- Plants, compost bins, and Outdoor Beautification
- Poetry Alive
- Primary Science night support and prizes
- Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)
- Reflections
- Room Parents
- Scholarships for After-School Activities
- School Apparel Sales
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- School Directory and copy to each family
- Silent Auction
- Soccer
- Snickerdoodle Program, publication software, and a copy of the book to every student
- Sock Hop
- Software for Special Education
- Staff Appreciations
- Staff Professional Development
- Talent Share
- Tennis
- Thanksgiving Community Outreach
- The Energy Guy Presentation
- WordMasters Challenge
- Yearbook

6th Grade Awards Ceremony

Last year saw the beginning of a couple of new traditions at Hunters Woods Elementary. The 6th Grade awards ceremony was moved to be a night event, where parents and families could come and see their students recognized. This was followed by a reception in the cafeteria, where several 5th grade parents set up and served the refreshments, so that 6th grade parents could watch their own children participate in the commencement ceremony.

As we build on this tradition, we are looking for any parents who can lend a hand with setting and serving the desserts.

The 6th grade parents will provide the refreshments and party goods, we just need some friendly helpers to cut cake during the ceremony and help out during the reception.

Please contact Suzanne Thibeault at Sthibeault@cox.net if you can help this Thursday evening.

Farewell

We are sorry to say goodbye to two people in the school office who have made a difference to our school and our lives, Kathy Bajek and Lillie Dulaney.

Kathy Bajek has been at Hunters Woods for the past 8 years. She started as a 4th grade GT teacher for 1 year. In her next position as the science teacher she took the department to new heights in curriculum and enrichment. Until 3 years ago she was the only science teacher at Hunters Woods, teaching all students from Head Start through 6th grade. She developed all of the outdoor learning areas, started the Lego Robotics teams, making Hunters Woods the first elementary school in Fairfax County (and the elementary school with the greatest number of teams in the U.S.) to participate in this international competition. She piloted curriculums at Hunters Woods being developed for NASA and the Centennial of Flight Commission, sits on the Teacher Advisory Council for National Geographic, helped write the grant for the Kennedy Center for the CETA (Changing Education Through the Arts) program, and was part of the original group of teachers from 8 schools trained in that program, and initiated the participation of our school in the Jason Project. Ms. Bajek has for the past few years been teaching graduate-level courses for teachers for UVA and GMU. For the past school year, she has been one of our assistant principals, using her experience, enthusiasm, and joy for our students to continue to be part of what is great about Hunters Woods. Right after school ends she will be moving to the Rochester, New York area, where she is currently seeking a position in the education field. We wish her well, will miss her much, and continue to benefit from the many contributions that she leaves with us.

Lillie Dulany has worked in the school office for the past 5 years. Currently the Staff Time and Attendance Assistant, she keeps account of all of our teachers, staff and substitutes. Additionally she orders supplies, is responsible for awards and certificates for the school, and wears several other hats that will be difficult to replace.

To add to that, Lillie has encouraged students and all of us, with a hug, her sunny smile and great sense of humor on a daily basis. So many of us have benefited from her professional yet compassionate approach to all of our needs.

She is looking forward to her retirement so that she can spend time with her lovely grandchildren, not commute 1.5 hours each way to Hunters Woods on I-95, and finally unpack her boxes from her move 2 years ago. Lillie says that she will be back to visit. We certainly look forward to that and hope that this will be often; otherwise we will be forced to follow the aroma of her fabulous cooking to her door!

Lillie, you will be sorely missed!

Directory Advertising

Beat the rush and place your business or school booster ad in the HWES 2005/2006 Student Directory. Almost 900 copies are distributed, including one to each family at Hunters Woods.

The directory is 8-1/2" x 11". Ads cost \$35 per 1/3 page, \$60 per half-page, \$100 per full page, \$150 for the inside covers, or \$250 for the back cover. Where else can you find such inexpensive advertising and also support the Hunters Woods community?

We are working toward earlier production (and distribution) of the directory this year. Ads must be submitted and paid for by August 31, so contact Pam Light at 703-620-4074 or PamelaBLight@comcast.net or Elysa Katz at ElysaKatz@netscape.net to reserve your space.

Phonemic Awareness Program

Each year a fantastic group of volunteers dedicates themselves to helping kindergarten students who have scored below benchmark on literacy readiness screening. These volunteers meet with the students twice a week for the better part of the school year. They play games that encourage the children to focus on the sounds that make up our words. They work with rhyming, beginning sounds, ending sounds, and syllables. They forge a bond with the students as they build the children's confidence; and they share the joy as they watch a child "get" a concept that was foreign early in the year. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to this year's Phonemic Awareness volunteers: **Leslie Chafetz, Jennifer Edgerton, Karen Purdy, Fred Sherman, and Gary Smith!** Thank you, also, to Ann Gray Brooks, our Reading Specialist, who helps coordinate the program with the teachers, and who contributed many materials of her own this year! -- *Debbie Szymczyk*

Garden Update

Our hard work prepping and planting in the late winter/early spring have paid off! Numerous classes of lower- and upper-graders have had the opportunity to harvest and taste carrots, radishes, three kinds of lettuce, as well as bok choy and beets. Maybe your child has a new willingness to try green-colored foods at mealtime and snack-time. . . I sure hope so!

The tomato plants are gigantic and starting to flower and set fruit; the peppers are coming on strong; the corn plants will be at least chest-high by the 4th of July; and watch out for the sunflowers and gourds that will dominate in the fall. The cabbages, Brussels sprouts, rainbow chard, and beans are filling out. Over the summer months, you may help with the gardens by bringing something from home for the compost bins (there are three—to open, twist the tops to align the arrows). Any time you have leftovers from preparing or enjoying a fruit or green salad, please remember the compost bins. We are making our own FREE and ORGANIC soil amendments for next year! Please remember: NO MEATS, FATS, BONES, or OILS go into them. There is a trash barrel for things that aren't appropriate. If you bring something for composting, you may take a few tomatoes home with you. The varieties are: Brandywine, Cherokee, and Mr. Strikey. See if you can tell which is which.

Also, we have word that our school gardens have been selected for inclusion on the 2006 Reston Garden Club Garden Tour! A delightful honor. This will keep us busy in early 2006—so watch for announcements of workdays and other opportunities to lend a hand in the gardens.

-- *Catherine Linberg, PTA Outdoor Beautification Chair*

P.S. You and your kids may especially enjoy the Smithsonian and National Park Service Folklife Festival on the Mall this year. From June 23 to 27 and June 30 to July 4, Alice Waters' Edible Schoolyard will be one of the many exhibits on the theme of Food Culture USA. www.folklife.si.edu/festival/2005/Food/index.html

Summer Volunteers

Hunters Woods PTA is busy over the summer planning some great fall events for our students and staff. We will need some help with preparations: **Fall Harvest Festival** (mid-fall)—Help prepare for the festival; **Open House Picnic** (Sept 1)—Help out at the picnic; **Back-to-School Teacher Breakfast** (late Aug); **Collating and Stuffing** the 1st Tuesday Folder (late Aug); **Directory Advertising** (summer/early fall)—solicit advertisements; **Calendar Sales**—sell calendars in the fall and at the picnic; **Apparel Sales**—sell apparel in the fall and at the picnic; **Decrease Tuesday Papers Task Force** (late Summer). Please reply to hwsommervols@yahoo.com and include your name and interests or call Dianne Hansen at 703-620-1658.

Girl Scouting Opportunities

Interested in joining Girl Scouts? Troops are forming now for fall. Hunters Woods girls entering Grades K–6 are welcome. Girl Scouts is an international organization dedicated solely to girls. In partnership with committed adults, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Contact Debbie Szymczyk at 703-707-9644 or szymczyk@erols.com if you are interested in being involved.