

# Hunters Horn

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## President's Message

In the current issue of *Our Children*, the magazine of the National PTA, the feature article on raising active thinkers suggests ways for parents to nurture active thinkers to “instill in their children a love of learning and an ability to think that will become resilient enough to endure the pressures and influences of school and society.” It recommends spaces that meet children’s learning needs, reduction in the amount of television and other non-interactive screens, plenty of books, music, school supplies and games, and a connection to nature. Supporting your child at home includes interactions, discussions, and nurturing an ability to think about the world around them. To read the complete article, as well as others of interest, visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) (where *Our Children Magazine* is located under Parent Resources) or look for a copy in the PTA notebook under the volunteer computer desk in the school office.

In nurturing our own children at Hunters Woods, we have had a busy winter. Many parents—including Elysa Katz, Karen Berube, Marianne McLaughlin, Glenda and John Miesner, Caroline Hemenway, Jan Bonner, Ravi Ravishankar, Elaine Cox, Joan Lynch, Debbie Szymczyk, Micki Moravitz, Cynthia Lopynski, Elizabeth Digilio, Maria Smith, Kristin Hartt, Trish Smith, Donna Shebat, Mary McVicar, Dorothy Little, Bernice Akinbileje, Supriya Baily, Liz Brouckman, and all of the volunteers who helped strike the set after the show—enabled our talented students to participate in our highly successful play production. Thanks go out to these parents and students and to Patrick Ware and Olivia Toatley for making it all possible.

Our Odyssey of the Mind teams competed on Saturday, March 4, in the local competition. Thanks to Caroline Hemenway, Julia Sullivan, Myron Rosmarin and a host of parent volunteer coaches who have channeled over a hundred of our students to solve prescribed “problems” in this international program

Traditionally, the PTA Silent Auction has taken place during the Fall Harvest Festival. When the two events ran concurrently, the volunteer pool was diluted; and the volunteers working at the festival missed out on much of the bidding. This year the Auction will be separated from the Festival, and has been moved to Friday evening, March 31. Our chairs Susan Sather and Karen Purdy, with the help of a large committee, are diligently working to bring you an evening of fun and entertainment. Please mark this event on your calendar and give generously in your support.

Our Plant Sales chair, Susan Rigger, coordinated the Daffodil Days fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Our school raised \$750 to support the good work of the ACS, and will provide many donated bunches of daffodils to patients with cancer. Thanks to Susan and to all who donated to this cause.

The most fun about Bingo is the prizes—or is it the snacks, or the community spirit, or the competition, or the cheering?! Well it was ALL fun at Bingo Night. Thanks to Christine Gambrel for bringing it all to Hunters Woods.

If you haven’t noticed the new sculpture in front of our school,

just drive into the front driveway on a windy day! Thanks to Lisa Foley and the Art Department for introducing us to our Artist-in-Residence, sculptor Kevin Reese. He spent a week with our 4<sup>th</sup> graders (funded by a PTA minigrant) teaching them about art, movement, and physics (Simple Machines Science SOL curriculum for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades) and working with them to create the wonderful stabile. To end the week Kevin performed a creative one-man play, for all Head Start through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, demonstrating the integration of art and science with other areas of curriculum and that it’s not always clear what “art” is. It was an enlightening experience not only for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders to have him here, but also for anyone who walked by the Museum space during the week. Thanks to the Art Department, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, and all the parent volunteers who made the week possible.

All of the manuscripts are in and the editorial team and parent volunteers are busy working on the production of *Snickerdoodle*. Thanks to Rozanne Silverwood (whose children left Hunters Woods two years ago) for continuing the vision of a literary magazine of extraordinary quality, along with Karen Berube, Jennifer Arakelian, Trish Heatherly, Ann Richards, Jody Wolfe, Debi Miles, Susan Brownsword, and Maureen Becker. Many of these volunteers will not be available to work on this effort next year. If you feel you would like to make a contribution of your time in this area, and would like to find out more about the facets of the production, contact these volunteers by going to the PTA website at [www.hunterswoodspta.org](http://www.hunterswoodspta.org). They are all listed under Literary Magazine on the list of committees.

Ever wonder how your flyers get to the classrooms to get into Tuesday Folders? The committee chairs create them and Marina Matthes copies them and puts them in teacher mailboxes. Thanks to Marina for taking care of this “invisible” yet important job, and for always meeting our (sometimes impossible) deadlines. Thanks also to ALL of the parents who come in diligently on Tuesdays to do the stuffing! —Cathy Uhrig

## Spring Silent Auction & Movie Night

The Auction was separated from the Fall Harvest Festival—so why has it been paired with a Movie Night? So that kids can attend the free movie night, while their parents browse, socialize, snack, and bid at the auction. Plan to attend this fun social and fundraising event on Friday, March 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

We need help sorting items for the auction on Thursday, March 30 (day and evening). Volunteers are needed to collect bid sheets and make checkout fast and efficient. Movie Night chaperones are needed for 45-minute shifts (you can help and enjoy the Auction.)

If you can help with anything please contact Susan at [Auction@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:Auction@HuntersWoodsPTA.org) or 703-860-2537.

## Flyers Ask It: Bring Items for Basket!

In the generous Hunters Woods tradition, each class donates a basket of their choice to the school’s Silent Auction.

This year expect to see a basketful of items to: Wake up with Extreme Caffeine, Spring into Gardening, Go International from A to Z, Make Some Arts & Crafts Treasures, Delight Your Doggie, Express Your Inner Chef and Baking Skills, Enjoy a Family Movie or Game Night, Get Ready for Spring Break, Do Some Camping, Shop 'til You Drop with All of Your Gift Cards, Relax with a Spa Treatment! And after that, have some good ol’ fashioned Summertime Fun, with Sports, Toy & Games, and even Horses & Ponies! These are just some of the great class baskets you’ll be able to bid on. Plan on checking out all of our 39 magnificent class baskets among all the other fantastic items for bid at this year’s Spring Silent Auction! Please remind your child to bring in his/her contribution to the class basket by Friday, March 24. Remember, donated items are tax deductible since this is a PTA fundraiser! Contact your class parent or Cindy Kappel at 703-620-5592 or by email at [basket@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:basket@HuntersWoodsPTA.org) if you have any questions.

## March Events

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| <b>17</b> | Talent Share 7 PM  |
| <b>24</b> | Individual and Class Picture Day                                     |
| <b>30</b> | Fourth Grade Dance Technique Demonstration 6:30 & 7:30 PM (by teams) |
| <b>31</b> | Silent Auction and Movie Night 6:30 PM                               |

## April Events

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| <b>1</b>    | SkateQuest Family Night 6–8 PM                            |
| <b>5</b>    | Principal’s Coffee 6:30 PM<br>PTA General Meeting 7:30 PM |
| <b>7-14</b> | No School —Spring Break                                   |

**Spring Book Fair**

Mark your calendars for May 1–5. The PTA book fair is coming! Parents are welcome to preview/purchase anytime during our open hours, which are tentatively: 8:30 AM–1 PM on Monday (5/1), 8:30 AM–3:30 PM (Tuesday 5/2–Thursday 5/4), and 8:30 AM–12 noon on Friday (5/5). The book fair will also be open on Wednesday evening (5/3) 6–8 PM and Thursday evening (5/4) (6–8:30 PM). Each classroom will also be scheduled to visit the book fair twice during the week: once to preview the books and once to purchase (for those who wish to do so). Bookworm Plantation always provides us with a terrific selection of books—this is a great opportunity to stock up on some summer reading materials.

Volunteers are still needed for many of the time slots above, and for set-up on Friday, 4/28, and pack-up on Friday, 5/5 (12 noon–2 PM). If you are interested in volunteering, please email us with your contact information and when you are able to volunteer. We appreciate any time that you can offer!

**Talent Share**

The Annual PTA Talent Share will be held on Friday, March 17, at 7 PM in the Hunters Woods Gymnasium. This show will feature wonderful performances by some very talented students from our own school. Everyone has been working hard to bring you a fun and enjoyable evening, demonstrating a wide variety of talents. Be sure to attend this special event, and show these students your support. Don't miss it!

**Odyssey of the Mind**

Two HWES Odyssey of the Mind teams are headed for the state tournament on April 8 in Newport News, Virginia, having won the regional meet on March 4 against outstanding competition. HWES boasted 12 teams out of more than 180 at the regional event, the most of any school.

One team of 6<sup>th</sup>-graders Samantha Chamberlin, Ajit Chellappa, Zack Sturm, Isabel Hulkhower, Brandon Lin, Rebecca Hemenlotter, and Sarah Delaney (coached by Caroline Hemenway) presented a funny skit about a "Jungle Bloke" and volcanoes in Africa. The other team, comprising 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders Stephen Banghart, Sadie Belt, Ria Bhatia, Gabriela Driscoll, Dana Horton-Geer, Keeley McClaughlin, and Michael Yuan (coached by Michael Horton-Geer and Becky Banghart), depicted a humorous "Ancient Egypt" creation. Myron Rosmarin's Geometry Structure team (6<sup>th</sup> graders Austin Rosmarin, Alex Bernstein, Chichi Li, and Ethan Cantwell, and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders Amelia Rosmarin, John Shebat, and Lucas Lin) came in third in their division.

Of course, every team was a winner because in "Odyssey of the Mind" it is the odyssey - the journey - that counts, not the destination, though they all did well in the rankings. OM is an international program where teams of five to seven students choose one of several long-term problems to solve in an eight-minute skit performed before judges for scoring. They also solve on-the-spot challenges. The creative process rewards thinking "outside the box". They do all the work, from script to construction, entirely themselves. We are proud of them!

**Lost & Found Clearance**

The Lost and Found closet, located in the downstairs hallway between the Dance Studio and Mr. Smith's Music Room will be cleaned out on FRIDAY, MARCH 17. All unclaimed and unmarked items will be removed for donation on that day.

**Looking for You!**

To help us show our appreciation for the Office and Clinic Staff (the week of April 24), and the Classroom and Resource Teachers (the week of May 8), help is needed to organize the various areas (flyers, decorations, gifts, food, set-up, and clean-up) of both of these appreciation events. Since many hands make light work, please consider joining a team and taking on a part of this effort. Contact Cathy Uhrig at [president@hunterswoodspa.org](mailto:president@hunterswoodspa.org)

**Reflections Artists Exhibit at Silent Auction**

On Friday, March 31, in conjunction with the Silent Auction, there will be a showing of the largest number of Reflections entries ever submitted by Hunters Woods students.

Reflections is a National PTA-sponsored Fine Arts event which had had record participation this year. There were 3 Primary (grades K–2) entries, 96 Intermediate (grades 3–5) entries, and 12 Middle (grades 6–8) entries. Thanks to all who participated.

The art and literature entries will be on display at the auction. Announcements will be made about winners in the categories: Literature, Visual Arts, Photography, and Music. The winning entries went on to the County Council level of competition. County level winners will also be announced that evening.

**Got the Donation Blues?**

You'd like to contribute to the PTA Silent Auction, but find yourself wondering, "What could I offer that anyone would want?" Anything you offer, somebody WILL want. Popular auction items range from a platter of home-baked cookies to a simple will, from a bulb-planting to hand-crafted scrapbook pages, from ethnic dinners to movie night baskets, tax preparation services to movie tickets and babysitting offers. The family donations add a personal touch to the Auction. Think about what your family could share with another HWES family and contact [Auction@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:Auction@HuntersWoodsPTA.org) with information about your donation today!

**Wrap It Up**

Spring is coming and birthday season is in full swing! Have you run out of your favorite gift wrap? You can continue to support Hunters Woods by shopping online for gift wrap and accessories at [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com). By using our school customer code number, 103384, Hunters Woods PTA receives half of the price! Thank you.

**Daffodil Days**

Thanks to the generosity of our HWES parents and staff, the PTA raised \$750 for the American Cancer Society during this year's Daffodil Days! Daffodils and bears will be delivered to the school today, March 14th. They will be labeled and available for pickup in front of the office this afternoon and Wednesday morning. The PTA thanks everyone for heartwarming support of this worthy cause!

**WordMasters Challenge**

The HWES Word Masters Teams competed nationally in February with terrific results again. The national median score for the 3rd Grade GOLD Teams was 101. The HWES 3rd Grade GOLD Team scored a remarkable 136 points. Huge congrats to our high scorer, Kalyani Pillai, who scored a perfect score, one of only 16 e out of 6,080 who took the test. Other high scorers were Orchi Banergy, Ryan Sharifi, Shantanu Gore, John Pentakalos, and Megan Sharifi.

The national median score for the 5th Grade GOLD Teams was 126. Despite having two Monday holidays and one snow day (they only met twice as a group), the HWES 5th Grade GOLD Team scored 120 points. Congratulations to our high scorer, Kiffa Conroy, who scored 18. Amndeepp Mann also scored high with a 17. The next notable cluster of scores was from Senthil Kannan, Andrew Kropp-Sullivan, Brittany Smith, and Ben Hsu.

Congratulations to both teams! They did very well. Good luck in your next challenge later this Spring!

WordMasters is a National organization in which children are challenged with words and analogies. The team meets once a week for five weeks. HWES Word Masters still has one more five-week session left. The spring session runs late March–May 2. Word Masters is open to all children. If you have a child interested in joining, please email [WordMasters@HWESPTA.org](mailto:WordMasters@HWESPTA.org).