

# Hunters Horn



Volume 37, Issue 10

May 2005

## President's Message—Cathy Uhrig

Thanks to all who have made the year a success. In the process we have also learned some things. One success that we have had is with the Keep-In-Touch email system. Hunters Woods was included in the FCPS pilot of a “customized” system just for our school, and partially because of the interest and success, it has been made available to other schools for the coming year. The purpose of the system is to be efficiently informed of events both within our school and the Fairfax County Public Schools via email. Access Keep-In-Touch, from our website: [www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES/index.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES/index.htm), click on Keep-In-Touch, and follow the directions. You can sign up for a large variety of categories of interest. When information is sent out on the categories you have chosen, you will immediately receive an email. If you are already signed up for the system, you need to update your own profile as needed. Some information is only sent out via this system, so I encourage anyone who has access to the Internet at all to sign up.

In case you don't know yet, it is with great pleasure that I inform you that Mrs. Clara Johnson, our Building Supervisor, has been named Fairfax County Support Employee of the Year 2005! The announcement was made on Wednesday, April 27, to overwhelming

excitement during the 5th and 6th grade dance performance. That day at Hunters Woods was also declared “Clara Johnson Day” and the 5th grade dance theme was centered around Mrs. Johnson. Thanks to all who contributed their personal stories and anecdotes, all who helped put together the nomination packet, and all who helped make her day special for her. We should all be proud of her accomplishments and that she is such an important part of the Hunters Woods community. I hope you get a chance to congratulate her on this wonderful and well-deserved honor. Channel 21 was at the school filming the dance performance and interviews with Clara, and was back several times more to film her in action. The county award ceremony will be held June 9 and will be broadcast live on Channel 21 in the evening. Any further information will be sent via a Keep-In-Touch message. Though many people helped with Clara Johnson Day, special thanks go to Maureen Becker for coordinating the event, the art teachers Lisa Foley, Cathy Germain, and Lesley Glendenning; dance teacher Mrs. T.; and Jane Kolb.

On May 2 the Teachers and Staff were treated to a wonderful luncheon made of a huge variety of foods made by many generous parents. Thanks to all who provided the food, and to Joan Lynch and the fabulous Staff Appreciation Committee for putting it all together. It was a wonderful event and got many kudos from all who attended. In fact, thanks to this committee for all of the appreciation events throughout the year!

In April Ms. Kelly, the Primary Science Teacher, held the Annual Primary Science Night for grades K–2. Thanks to Shashi Ravishankar, JoAnn Sullivan, Elizabeth Digilio, Trellis Evans, and Algie Byrum for all of their efforts. Thanks also to all of the other parents who helped put the event together and to all of the parents and families who provided their children with all of the supplies and encouragement they needed to participate in this educational event. Look for this again next spring!

Catherine Linberg has been working with many of the children in the gardens. She helped all of the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes plant vegetables seeds. Kinders through 3rd graders have lately been thinning lettuce and radishes (and eating them!) Several 5<sup>th</sup> grade science classes have been helping ready all the garden beds for Spring and Summer. And Susan Rigger and Mike Blanpied worked hard on transforming Daffodil Hill and the circle on Colts Neck into beautiful beds of flowers. And finally it rained!

As always, I can be contacted at 703-620-9462 or [cuhrig@comcast.net](mailto:cuhrig@comcast.net) if needed. There is not a general PTA meeting in June, but look for dates and times for July and August meetings in the next issue of the *Hunters Horn*. I look forward to seeing you next year!

## Sixth Grade Luncheon

Sixth grade parents are invited to attend a meeting about the 6th grade Luncheon tonight, May 17, 2005 at 7 p.m.

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## MAY

- 17** Sixth Grade Luncheon Committee 7 p.m.
- 23** Kindergarten Orientation 1:30 p.m.
- 26** Sixth Grade Opera—George Mason University 11 a.m. 7 p.m.
- 23–27** Principals' Appreciation Week
- 30** No School

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## JUNE

- 3 - 6** No School
- 7** Grade 3 Strings Performance 7 p.m.
- 9** K–2 Movement Performance 7 p.m.
- 14** 4–6 Strings Performance 7 p.m.
- 15** 4–6 Band Performance 7 p.m.
- 16** 4–6 Chorus and General Music Plus 7 p.m.
- 17** Adventure Day K-3 a.m. & 4-6 p.m.
- 21** Writer's Celebration  
Adventure Day raindate  
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

## Great Harvest and Trader Joes

The PTA would like to thank the Great Harvest Bread Company and Trader Joes for their generous donations to our teachers. Great Harvest made up lovely gift presentations with a gift certificate for bread and cookies for each teacher. Trader Joes offered a discount on delicious jams, which were packaged with the certificates and a balloon at each teacher's place for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

## Leaving Hunters Woods?

Is your family moving on from Hunters Woods? If your sixth grader is your only or last child at Hunters Woods, you are invited to submit goodbye notes to the HWES family or special remembrances from your children's school experiences, for publication in the June issue of the *Hunters Horn*. Send notes to [SLSather@comcast.net](mailto:SLSather@comcast.net) or to school in an envelope marked "Hunters Horn."

## Nominated PTA Slate for 2005/6

The nominations for the 2005-2006 Board are

President: Cathy Uhrig

1st VP: Maureen Becker

2nd VP: Susan Sather

Treasurer: Susan Brownsword

Recording Secretary: Nicole Irving

Corresponding Secretary: Deborah Lannen

The vote for the slate of officers for next year's PTA will take place during several of the concerts taking place in June. If you are a PTA member, please participate when the vote takes place. We appreciate your support. Congratulations and thank you to all of the board members offering their service for next year.

## School Supplies

In your Tuesday Folder on May 3, you received an envelope with which to order your school supplies for next year. **THIS IS NOT A FUNDRAISER.** This is a service that the PTA is providing in the hope that, if you choose to use it, will make your preparation for next school year a little easier.

Inside the envelope there are the supply lists that were prepared by the teachers at each grade level. Each packaged kit will include all of these items. If you choose not to purchase the packaged kit, you can use these lists for your personal shopping.

The PTA extensively researched the school kits for pricing and service and feels that we will be getting the best of both. Lists were taken to area stores that provide these items and we found the prices to be at least as low, and in some cases lower in the kits.

Please note that the kits **ARE ONLY AVAILABLE IF PURCHASED BEFORE MAY 27**, and will be available for pick up at the Open House the Thursday evening before the start of school (September 1), and that teachers may request additional school supply items in the Fall.

*Thank you! Susan Brownsword and Maureen Becker*

## Principals' Appreciation Week

Our principals are caring, giving, loving, and incredibly invested in our school and our children. Next week, from May 23–27, is our chance to show them how much their guidance, attention, and hard work matter to us as parents. For Principals' Appreciation Week we ask you and your children to please to write notes of appreciation to our Principal, Steve Hockett, and Assistant Principals Kathy Bajek and Robin Mentzer.

## A RING of Love to Surround Our Kids

As HWES PTA members, we support our wonderful school not only because our *own* children directly benefit, but also because the *entire community's* children benefit. When my twin girls enrolled as kindergarteners this year, I could tell how wonderful HWES and its PTA are by how everyone talked about "our children" in a way that embraced every child in every classroom. And, when PTA parents venture out to participate in "pyramid" meetings with Langston Hughes and South Lakes High, the circle widens.

So it's no surprise that the PTA supports the work of Reston Interfaith (RI) through food drives and other means every year. It's our vehicle for helping about 13,000 neighbors in need (most of them families with children) throughout Greater Reston per year. Here are a few things RI does for our most vulnerable children:

- Operates the 60-bed Embry Rucker Shelter in Town Center. Half of the shelter is dedicated to families with children—over 600 individuals and families take refuge here per year. Most parents are working and earn more when they leave than they did coming in.
- Operates transitional housing for homeless families to move into on their way to affordable, permanent housing (also offered by RI).
- Participates in Healthy Families Fairfax to provide parenting support and child abuse and neglect prevention services. Families in the program experience higher birth-weights, on-time immunizations, stronger parent/child bonds, kindergarten-ready children; and zero cases of abuse/neglect.
- Operates Laurel Learning Center for 135 children (most of the slots are low-income and 35 are for infants and toddlers). LLC has NAEYC accreditation—only 7% of early-care centers in country share this mark of quality.

I could go on and on. RI does a lot and it does it well. To demonstrate our support for RI and its mission, the PTA has established a team for "RING"—the Reston Interfaith Neighborhood Giving Campaign. RING is Reston Interfaith's first-ever residential fundraising campaign being held from May to July. To make a donation to RI as a member of the "HWES PTA" team, go to [www.restoninterfaith.org](http://www.restoninterfaith.org) and click on the RING logo. Then find our team, join it, and make your contribution. That's it. You'll be able to see our team's total rise and know you made that difference even before you leave the website. Another simple, meaningful way to care for our children brought to you by your PTA.

*Mary Malzahn*