

# Hunters Horn

April 2007

Volume 39, Issue 8



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## President's Message

*No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow. ~Proverb*

Spring—it is finally here! I really enjoy this time of year in the Washington area; I love the flowers blooming, the tree buds bursting, and the warm weather returning. It makes me feel hopeful and reinvigorated.

Our new custodian has moved over from Langston Hughes, where he was highly regarded. His name is Mr. Wylie; please introduce yourself next time you're at the school. We said good-bye to our long-time custodian, Mrs. Johnson, at the end of April. The students and staff gave her a very touching send-off, with songs, poetry, and a tree to be planted at the school in her honor. The PTA purchased a commemorative brick through the Reston Historic Trust to be placed at Lake Anne Plaza in her name.

The PTA meeting this month was very busy, with the staff and teachers of Hunters Woods applying for over \$5,000 in mini grants. The approved grants were for an accompanist for the choral festival performers, a medieval knight performer for the fifth grade, a scanner for the music teachers so all students in grades 3 through 6 will be able to access music and worksheets at 24/7 Blackboard, Lego league kits, tee-shirts for incentives for the after-school remediation program, an "E-Instruction Classroom Performance System" for the whole school, a "big book" cart for the reading specialist to use, \$500 in books for the reading program, and physical education equipment.

In June the PTA will be sending home to all families a copy of the budget—please take few minutes to look it over. There will be a budget planning meeting in July for the next school year, and everyone is invited to give their input. To be kept informed about what is happening this summer and plans for the fall, please regularly check our website at [www.hunterswoodspta.org](http://www.hunterswoodspta.org) and SIGN UP FOR KEEP IN TOUCH—simply click on it from our website and follow the directions. You may also update your information through this link at any time.

During the month of June at the various movement, choral, strings, and band concerts PTA members will be asked to vote on the slate of officers for the upcoming school year. They are:

President - Maureen Becker  
President-Elect - Susan Sather  
Vice President - Susan Brownsword  
Treasurer - Deborah Lannen  
Recording Secretary - Jennifer Arakelian  
Correspondence - Marina Matthes

Please look out for the volunteer opportunities coming home in the Tuesday Folders. We are looking for someone to coordinate our PTA membership campaign, coordinators for the Fall Harvest Festival, and organizers for the pizza sales at the Open House in August. If you are interested in finding out more about these opportunities, please email me at [president@hunterswoodspta.org](mailto:president@hunterswoodspta.org) or give me a call 703-391-0164.

I hope you all find time to take in all the beauty around us.

*Maureen Becker*

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## Thanks, Reston Champs

"A thousand plus thanks!" was the theme for this year's Office and Clinic Staff Appreciation Week. Students, families, and faculty showered our office and clinic staff with cards, flowers, and personalized mementos in appreciation for all their commitment and support! The PTA extends a special thank-you to Champs restaurant at the Plaza America shopping center in Reston for providing an absolutely delightful meal that was served at the staff luncheon Friday afternoon!

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## Turnover Dinner

All Committee Chairs past and future are invited to the PTA Turnover dinner. This is where outgoing committee chairs "turnover" their committee notebooks to the incoming chairs. It is also a nice social time for PTA members to come together and have fun! The main course is provided by the school, you are asked to bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert. The dinner is on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at Maureen Becker's home. For more info please email [president@hunterswoodspta.org](mailto:president@hunterswoodspta.org) or call 703-391-0164.

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## School Supplies Coming!

This year the PTA will again be selling pre-packaged school supplies. Look for the order forms in Tuesday folders very soon! Use those forms to pre-order school supplies this spring, that you can pick them up at Open House next August. This year, in response to parents' feedback that they'd be happy to pay for the convenience of not having to shop, and our lower than anticipated fundraising goals, the packages will include a \$3 fundraising charge. The PTA negotiates with several vendors prior to selection, so we feel confident that even with the additional charge we remain competitive with the prices you'll find at area retailers, and you'll have the added bonus of not purchasing those extra "cute" things that seem to find their way into shopping carts when out with kids. So, be on the lookout for the supply order forms, and this year, please consider choosing to have quality school supplies ready and waiting for you at Open House!

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## May Events

- 15** Grade 2 Movement Performance 6:30 PM
- 16** Grade K/1 Movement Performance 6:30 PM
- 17** Grade 5 Dance Performances
- 18** BINGO Night 6:30 PM
- 21** Kindergarten Orientation 1:30 PM
- 21 - 25** Principals' Appreciation Week
- 23** Grade 3 Strings Performance 7 PM
- 24** STARS GMU Performance 7 PM
- 29** Grade 3 Movement Performance 6:30 PM

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## June Events

- 5** Strings Concert 1:30 & 7 PM
- 6** Band Concert 1:30 & 5 PM
- 7** Chorus Concert 1:30 & 7 PM

## Book Fair

The Book Fair Chairs offer thanks to the many volunteers whose efforts made the Book Fair possible.

## Hunters Woods Co-op Preschool

Hunters Woods Cooperative Preschool is now enrolling for the 2007–2008 school year. We are a unique community of parents who contribute our time and talents to enrich our school—and we are there to watch our children grow in the classroom environment. Our children make friends and develop an enthusiasm and excitement for learning and sharing that will be a life-long treasure.

Limited openings are available in our 3- and 4-year-old classes. We offer a two-morning program and a three-morning or three-afternoon program. Please visit our website at [www.HuntersWoodsPreschool.org](http://www.HuntersWoodsPreschool.org) or call Lois Male at 703-860-2077 for more information.

## Copying Help Needed

The Risograph Committee is looking for a few people to commit to making copies on a very flexible schedule. Copying is done in the PTA office, where young children can play and help, without distracting any classes. This is an ideal job for parents with younger children. Please contact Marina Matthes to learn more at [Risograph@HuntersWoodsPTA.org](mailto:Risograph@HuntersWoodsPTA.org).

## Outdoor Thanks Galore

Many thanks to the volunteers who came out and made our PTA Spring workday on April 21st such a success. We accomplished much on an unseasonably hot day: we built a handicapped-accessible garden bed; we excavated for the base of the 6th grade sculpture; we placed trellises for the native wisterias on the front cafe wall; and we weeded the worst out of the butterfly and Three Sisters gardens behind the art and science rooms.

Our volunteers were: Mike Blanpied, Mary D'Amico, Cathy Germain, Katya and Ilia Lachinov, Catherine Linberg, Norma Morris, Rachel Negri, Patrick Nguyen, Susan Rigger, Lori Thomas (ask either of these preceding two about pokeweed roots!), and Patrick Ware and family. This workday was the first with such an even mix of parents and teachers—a true PTA!

Prior to and after the event, Jennifer Arakelian and Tami Holsten worked some Home Depot miracles for us! Thanks to you two for your generous gifts of time and more!

Your kids are now in the thick of outdoor visits in our various garden habitats. Seeds and seedlings are being sown; weeding is on-going; watering is a delightful task for students on these hot days. Some new plantings to look for this year: flax, cotton, and salsify! It's the Jamestown 400th Anniversary after all!

—Catherine Linberg, *Outdoor Beautification Chair*

P.S. Thank you to Gaelic Gardens (near Route 7 on Baron Cameron) for their support of our PTA through our 10%-off/10%-back sales there. And thanks to our HWES families for shopping there during these sales. Look for another sale in the Fall of 2007.

## Yearbooks

If you pre-ordered a yearbook back in October/November it will be delivered to your child in their classroom on Friday, June 15. If you did not pre-order a yearbook and still wish to buy one, they will go on sale the morning of Friday, June 15. The price is \$20. Supplies are limited and will be sold on a first-come first-served basis, one per person.

## Principals' Appreciation Week

The week of May 21–25 is Principals' Appreciation Week. Don't forget to stop by and tell our dedicated principals "thank you" for all of their hard work!

## WordMasters Wrap-Up

Two HWES students recently won highest honors in the final National Word Masters 2007 Challenge. Congratulations to Hillary Liu (6<sup>th</sup> grade) and Mahathi Tadikonda (4<sup>th</sup> grade), who achieved perfect scores. In addition, 6<sup>th</sup> grader Kiffa Conroy and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders Kyle Enriquez, Sherry Feng, and Katie Shen all achieved an Outstanding rating on the final challenge.

Special Congratulations go to the 6<sup>th</sup> graders Kiffa Conroy, Senthil Kannan, Andrew Kropp-Sullivan, Hillary Liu, and Amndeeep Mann for persevering and completing the full four-year National Word Masters Program. Thank you also to the parent coaches Heather Enriques (3<sup>rd</sup> gr), Anurag Sharma (5<sup>th</sup> gr), and Julia Sullivan (6<sup>th</sup> gr), and all the parents for supporting your team members in this academic effort.

## PTA Treasurer

The end of year is approaching quickly. If you have incurred expenses (or will be incurring expenses) for a PTA committee, please complete a check request form as soon as possible. Check request forms are available in the PTA inbox or on the website, [www.hunterswoodspta.org/forms.htm](http://www.hunterswoodspta.org/forms.htm). Please make sure that you sign the form and attach the appropriate receipts. Return forms to the PTA inbox in the school office in an envelope marked "Attention PTA Treasurer." Forms must be turned in by June 30 (our fiscal year end) in order to be reimbursed. Questions? Contact me at [treasurer@hunterswoodspta.org](mailto:treasurer@hunterswoodspta.org). Thanks!

*Deborah Lannen, PTA Treasurer*

## 15 Dollars for a Week of Camp!

July 9–13, 2007, 9 AM–4 PM

*Free Lunch and Free Transportation*

(Full financial assistance is available)

Buses from Herndon ES, Hutchison ES, and Dogwood ES) Open to all girls entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade Camp FUNshine is a Girl Scout–sponsored, community outreach camp designed as an introductory program for girls who are not currently Girl Scouts.

Located at Ox Hill Baptist Church  
4101 Elmwood Street, Chantilly, VA 20151  
For more information contact: Leah Paul  
Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital  
571-642-0253 x107  
[lpaul@gscnc.org](mailto:lpaul@gscnc.org)