



Hunters Horn



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President's Message

Hello Parents and Students!

In a few short weeks, summer will be here! Until then, we still have much work to do in school and in the PTA. This month, students will be taking SOLs, so please make sure your kids get a great breakfast, plenty of sleep and are relaxed, knowing they are prepared for what they need to accomplish. As parents and PTA volunteers, we too need to take this time to prepare for the next school year. Please read the newsletter completely - we have news about our Executive Committee Election, a parent survey, open committee chair positions, and more.

I would like to thank the following volunteers who have helped our students this month:

- Karen Montagne!! - for volunteering to be our President-elect for next year!
- Bonnie Silas, Raba Letteri and all our Room Parents for the Teacher Appreciation Week and Luncheon.
- Tami Holsten for Principal Appreciation Week.
- Gretchen Volgelzang, Pam Light, Kelly Kroll, Marisa Besselievre and Marguerite Leishman for their hard work on the Sixth Grade Party.
- Our Spring Book Fair Committee, led by Jo Wechselblatt!
- Raba Letteri, Jeri Thomas and Susan Sather - along with teachers: Ms. Mason, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Standiford and Dr. Bouchard for our wonderful Talent Show!

As always, thank you to all our parents who help in little and big ways to make our school the special place that it is. I hope each of you will fill out our parent survey and share your interests and thoughts with the PTA board. Hope to see you at the May 18 PTA meeting!

Jennifer Arakelian, PTA President 🍷

DATES TO REMEMBER	
Week of May 16-20	Principal Appreciation
Wednesday, May 18	PTA Meeting, 7pm
Monday, May 23	Kindergarten Orientation, 1:30pm
Friday, May 27	2 hour early dismissal
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day Holiday
Tuesday, June 6	Grades 4-6 String Perf.
Wednesday, June 7	Grades 4-6 Band Perf.
Thursday, June 8	Grades 4-6 Chorus Perf.
Friday, June 9	Adventure Day
Monday, June 13	PTA Turnover Dinner
Tuesday, June 14	Adventure Day Rain Date
Friday, June 17	6 th Grade Advancement
Monday, June 20	Class Parties
Tuesday, June 21	Last day of school - dismissal 11am

Hunters Horn Readers' Contest...

... returns this month. You have to read this newsletter to win! The contest rules are simple: just look for a few randomly selected students' names embedded in some of the articles in this issue of the Hunters Horn. If you see your child's name in brackets, e.g., [First Last], let us know and you will win a Hunters Woods spirit T-shirt for your child! To collect your child's prize, please send an email to newsletter@hwpta.org with your name and your child's name, teacher's name and desired T-shirt size. 🍷

Appreciation Week May 16-20

Principals Appreciation Week is the week of May 16-20. Please be sure to take the time to express your thanks to all of our wonderful principals for everything they do at HWES for our children. 🍷

Box Tops Contest Ends May 27

It's not too late to send in your Box Tops Collection Sheets! The final drawing for our Box Tops Contest will take place on Friday, May 27. Each sheet earns your class a chance of winning a Class Party with Sno-cones and a movie, and there is no limit to the number of sheets a student can submit. Additional collection sheets can be found on the PTA website at www.hwpta.org. Also remember to save your summer Box Tops for more exciting contests next year! Thanks for your support! 🍷

PTA Programs in Jeopardy!!!

We need YOUR help! We still have many open PTA committee chair positions for 2011-12. PLEASE consider volunteering to help on a PTA committee. The PTA is proud to have brought you the following programs, however, much like the crunch we're feeling in our households and with our government, we cannot continue to offer such robust offerings given our current limited resources - we simply do not have the manpower to run them all. Unless we have confirmed volunteers to coordinate these programs, they may be discontinued for the 2011-12 school year:

- **Events:** Open House Picnic; Fall Harvest Festival; Fall and Spring Dances
- **Programs:** After School Activities; WordMasters; Reflections
- **Communication Methods:** Paperless Tuesday Folders; Tuesday Folder (copying flyers); Hunters Horn (PTA Newsletter)

- Jeopardy, ctd. on p. 2

- Jeopardy, ctd. from p. 1

Descriptions of these committees are available on the PTA website. [Reid Schryer] Be assured that you will receive plenty of assistance from prior and current office holders; there are also many existing materials such as templates and how-to documents. If you can help, please contact nominating@hwpta.org.

There is a position out there that is just right for you, and your involvement will mean that we can continue to offer these popular programs next year – benefiting our students, our school, and our community! 📧

Edit the Hunters Horn

The PTA is searching for an editor for the 2011-12 Hunters Horn newsletter. Published once per month during the school year, the PTA newsletter fulfills an important need at the school by helping to keep our families informed and involved.

This is the perfect position for someone who does not have a lot of flexibility with their schedule during the day but still wants to lend a hand to help out at the school; this job can be done completely from home whenever is convenient for you. If you are interested or just want to find out more, please email newsletter@hwpta.org. 📧

Print Tuesday Folder Flyers

Looking for an easy way to help that would still allow you to have a huge impact on our school next year? We are seeking volunteers for our PTA Tuesday Folder Flyer committee for 2011-12. [Amaani Hogan] Anytime during the week – whether before, during or after school – come to the PTA office and make copies of the week’s Tuesday Folder flyers using our Risograph machine; it’s easy to use and we will show you how. Need to bring the kids along? No problem – they can play, read, or do their homework in the PTA office with you while the Risograph does its job. If this sounds like something you might be able to help with next year, please email tuesdayfolder@hwpta.org. 📧

Final PTA Meeting in May

Come learn about all the exciting things that are going on at Hunters Woods! Please attend our last PTA meeting of the 2010-11 school year [Anna Meleski] on Wednesday, May 18 in the school library.

We will be discussing a new Procedures and Standing Rules Committee being formed to address communication issues about how the PTA grants money for mini-grants, scholarships, and otherwise. We will also be discussing programs, plans and activities for next year, including Appreciations.

Everyone’s participation is encouraged and welcomed. 📧

PTA Launches

Parent Education Initiative

Recognizing the importance of a cooperative effort among teachers, parents, and the community in supporting our children, the PTA is launching a parent education initiative at Hunters Woods Elementary School. Our goal for the 2011-12 school year is to provide resources, networking, and a parent education speaker series to support parents in the areas they need the most.

To help us plan our resources and activities based on parent needs, a parent education survey will be distributed in May. This survey will be available in English and Spanish, in both electronic and hard copy form. Please take a moment to complete this brief survey and help guide our efforts going forward.

For more information please contact community@hwpta.org. 📧

PTA Programming Survey & Executive Committee Election

The PTA is doing a SHORT survey of parents and also conducting the election of 2011-2012 PTA Executive Committee Officers.

Each year in July, the PTA officers decide which events, programs and activities to continue for the new school year. As budget crunches are hitting everywhere, we too need to prioritize those items that parents enjoy, value and wish to support. Please take a moment to fill out the survey and make sure the programs, activities and events that are important to you make it on the calendar for 2011-2012!

Also, PTA members may vote for our wonderful volunteers who will comprise your PTA Executive Committee next year:

- President: Jennifer Arakelian
- President-elect: Karen Montagne
- Vice President of Events: Debbie Anguizola
- Vice President of Fundraising: Alexis Shield
- Vice President of Communications: Colleen Line
- Vice President of Volunteers: Jeri Thomas
- Vice President of Ways and Means: Sridevi Settupalli
- Corresponding Secretary: Shreeti Kapoor
- Recording Secretary: Melissa Benett
- Treasurer: Doug Kasper

You can fill out the paper survey that is being sent home in Tuesday folders or follow this link to take the survey online:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dGkwbTNNMUoxWTVsZ20tMF9ic0pPNUE6MQ#gid=0>. 📧

Hunters Woods Helps Japan

With the generous support of our Hunters Woods families and friends, the Junior Girl Scouts of Troop 1931 were able to raise more than \$2,000 for ShelterBox to support disaster relief efforts in Japan following the deadly earthquake and tsunami in March. Shortly after the tragedy in Japan occurred, the fourth- and fifth-grade girls of the troop, Kathryn Becker, Meghan Benedetto, Yukta Chidanandan, Mary Claire Erickson, Kathryn Evans, Sarah Mamros, Tara Ravishankar, Chloe Roy, Lilly Sather, Reagan Tobias, and Sam Van Haaren, chose to aid Japan as their Bronze Award community service project, spending more than twenty hours planning, preparing for and implementing the charity fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause! 🍷

Strings Earn Superior Rating

A big thank you to Mr. Smith for his efforts with the District Solo and Ensemble Festival that was held on Friday, April 1. With his leadership, Hunters Woods Orchestra Ensemble came away from the competition with a Superior Rating!!! Way to go, strings students! 🍷

Hunters Woods OotM Team Going to World Finals!!

"The Time Travelers," a Hunters Woods Odyssey of the Mind team, has just won the Virginia State Championship and is going on to the World Finals! The team, comprised of Juhi Gudavalli, Krithik Nadella (Oak Hill), Srinidhi Nagireddy, Vaishnavi Nara, John Norton, Shankar Sunderesan (GBW) and Andrew Uncles, placed first in Division 1 in the "Extreme Mousemobiles" problem.

The team created an 8 minute skit during which mousetrap-powered vehicles perform different tasks as part of their solution. Their story involves a scientist from the Apple Labs who builds a time machine that takes him and his data source "Info" all over the time space continuum - meeting Karl Benz who is trying to build a new car, a King in Ancient Mesopotamia called "King Messer-Upper" who always messes everything up and aliens who love music!!

The team loves designing cool props, developing their skit and testing out their mousemobiles, but best of all they love practicing spontaneously and eating snacks!! The team is busy getting ready to compete at the World Finals and hopes everyone from the Hunters Woods community will come and see some of the 750 U.S. and international teams compete!! The event runs from May 26-30 on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park, and all events are free and open to the public. Good luck, "Time Travelers!" 🍷

The Talent Share Was a Success!

Thank you to all of our hard-working and very talented students for participating in this year's Talent Share. The acts were diverse and the talents were abundant. We had singers, dancers, pianists, violinists, trumpeters, guitarists, a Chinese yo-yo act and more.

To set off the tone for the whole enchanting evening, we couldn't have had a better Masters of Ceremony than our own Dr. Bouchard and Mrs. Standiford. Their jokes made the night even more entertaining, and their help behind the scenes was invaluable.

Thank you also to Miss Mason and Mr. Smith, who put in many hours to make everything go smoothly. Raba Letteri, Susan Sather and Jeri Thomas helped to coordinate the event, and wish to thank Mrs. Toatley, Mrs. Russell and Mr. Skerker for encouraging the show year after year.

Thanks and congratulations, everyone! 🍷

🍷 TEACHER FEATURE! 🍷

This is the fifth in a series of articles written by HWES students to spotlight some of the many fantastic teachers who make our school such a great place to be. Special thanks to 3rd grader Brooke Tobias for contributing this article!

Myra Merritt, 3rd Grade Teacher

Ms. Merritt is really awesome. She does fun projects with me and my class. She writes good comments on worksheets that help me a lot! She works hard to teach us. She is always doing fun things with our class. She does a lot fun of things with Ms. Glen. My mom likes that she give a lot of constructive criticism.

She reads interesting books to the class. She finds books that have great facts for what we are learning.

I like the way she teaches spelling. She does it by giving us words like lick, sick, hope, smoke, snack, and back. Then, we would sort them. We would look at the last two or three letters. There will be one or two oddballs. I wrote hope as my oddball. Then, we have a test with ten words we have to spell. Ms. Merritt will call out the words. On the back we write two sentences with words we remembered that we studied.

Ms. Merritt was born in July. She enjoys being a teacher and is very funny. Her father was a teacher too. 🍷