



# Hunters Horn



PTA Newsletter • Volume 43, Issue 2 • October 5, 2011

## President's Message

Fall is finally here, and school is off to a great start. First, THANK YOU to all the parents who have become Mustang Pride or Simple PTA members. We have had an astounding response, and we are going to be able to NOT have another Fundraiser this year! If you have not yet become a member – please join! We still need funds and volunteers to cover all the wonderful PTA programs we have planned this year!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have been working so hard to make this a truly wonderful month and year for our students. A HUGE thank you to:

- Jo Wechelblatt, our Membership Chair.
- Maria Wojciechowshi and Shashi Ravishankar for Chalk for Peace! And thank you to all the Art Teachers!
- Megan Maslouhi for our Bus Driver & Crossing Guard Appreciation week and Tami Holsten for Cafeteria & Custodial Staff Appreciation week (READ the article).
- Trellis Evans, Pam Light, Kelly Rowell and Susan Sather for Sock Hop.
- Karen Browning for Tuesday Folder Copying and Colleen Line for Oldest & Only /paperless Tuesday Folders.
- Rasha Bawab for the Spelling Bee – spellers are being selected this month!
- Cynthia Cook for our Hunters Horn Newsletter – keeping us informed!
- Karen Montagne for Community Outreach and the upcoming Coat Drive (READ her article!)
- Sandy Angel for Grocery Receipts (READ her article) and for lots of other help.
- Sridevi Settipalli for the Reflections Art Competition (READ her article).
- Julia Sullivan for chairing the South Lakes Homecoming Parade participation.
- Marina Matthes – who is working behind the scenes on many of our successful committees.
- Paige Baldwin for Yearbook.
- Kirti Purohit for chairing the Fall Harvest Festival (READ the article).
- And my Fantastic Executive Committee Officers – who make my job so manageable and fun!

Also, I would like to recognize seven **teachers**, who are chairing or co-chairing committees – Nicole Zilberfarb (Special Ed), Rachel Negri (Outdoor Beautification), Andrew Loftus (Cultural Arts), Beth Atkins (Play), Jill Stewart (Spelling Bee), Stephanie DePaolis (Chalk for Peace) and Norma Morris (Yearbook).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>October 4-8</b>	Crossing Guard/Bus Driver Appreciation Wk.
<b>Friday, October 8</b>	PTA Sock Hop 6:30-9
<b>Monday, October 11</b>	Columbus Day (no school)
<b>October 11-15</b>	Cafeteria and Custodial Staff Appreciation Week
<b>October 18-22</b>	PTA Community Coat Drive
<b>Thursday, Oct. 21</b>	PTA meeting, 7pm
<b>Friday, October 22</b>	SLHS Homecoming Parade
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 27</b>	Picture Day
<b>Friday, October 29</b>	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter
<b>November 1-2</b>	Student holidays (teacher conferences)
<b>Saturday, Nov. 13</b>	PTA Fall Harvest Festival
<b>November 15-19</b>	PTA Fall Book Fair
<b>Thursday, Nov. 18</b>	PTA meeting, 7pm

If you have the opportunity, ask how you can help these great people [Eprata Mitiku] with their continuing efforts to improve our school or contact Alexis Shield, VP of Volunteers at vp4@hwpta.org. WE NEED YOU TOO!

There are many family fun activities coming up this month – so READ the whole Hunters Horn to find an opportunity for your family to participate in the HWES community.

See you at one of the great events coming up soon! 🎉

*Jennifer Arakelian, PTA President*  
*President@hwpta.org*

## Readers Contest Continues

Remember to watch for a few randomly selected students' names (chosen by our school registrar, Patti Ono) embedded somewhere in this issue of the Hunters Horn. If you see your child's name in brackets (e.g., [First Last] – to distinguish the contest winners' names from general mentions of students that may appear in other articles), you can win a Hunters Woods spirit T-shirt for your child! To collect your prize, please email newsletter@hwpta.org with your name and your child's name, teacher, and desired T-shirt size. 🎉

## PTA Sock Hop this Friday

**Join us as we celebrate the decades!** This **Friday, October 8**, from 6:30 to 9pm, it's a family Decade Dance in the school gym – dress like your favorite decade!

All refreshments are included with your admission. There will be snacks, popcorn, drinks & sweets served all night! Pizza will be served from 6:30-7:30pm. Everyone is invited to bring a baked treat to share.

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The price of admission to the Sock Hop is \$5 per person in advance, or \$6 per person at the door (\$20 maximum per family). **PTA Mustang Pride members get in FREE!**

Please sign up to help with set up, decorating, staffing or clean up at [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/sock3](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/sock3). Note that this is not a drop-off event; a responsible adult must accompany children. And besides, it is fun for ALL ages! 🍷

**Photos for Yearbook**

It's not too early to begin contributing photos for the 2010/2011 yearbook. Hunters Woods is the only elementary school in Fairfax County that has a student staff that puts together the yearbook. We welcome all photos from parents and students, whether it's a special event like the upcoming PTA Decade Dance on Friday, October 8th, a field trip, school concert, class party, or a photo of your child reading to the teacher. Please email photos to Mrs. Morris at [NRMorris@fcps.edu](mailto:NRMorris@fcps.edu), or put them on a disk labeled yearbook and bring them to the office. And please don't forget to tell us who is in the pictures! 🍷

**Upcoming Appreciation Weeks**

Don't forget to thank our wonderful school crossing guards and bus drivers for their efforts to see our kids safely to and from school! **October 4 through 8** is School Crossing Guard and Bus Driver Appreciation Week.

The PTA is organizing a snack treat bag for all the crossing guards and bus drivers. Please consider donating a baked treat on October 4 at Kiss and Ride or in the school office to add to the goodie bags. Offer to help distribute bags on October 5 by contacting Megan Maslouhi at [drivers@hwpta.org](mailto:drivers@hwpta.org).

The following week, **October 11 through 15**, is Cafeteria and Custodial Staff Appreciation Week. Each year, to show our collective appreciation, we treat these special members of our "Hunters Woods family" to a delicious luncheon. In order to make this a success, we ask that you PLEASE send in donations of baked goods on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 13 (delivered to the Front Office) or the morning of Thursday, October 14 (Front Office or Cafeteria, or staff at Kiss&Ride.) Questions? Contact Tami Holsten at [custodial@hwpta.org](mailto:custodial@hwpta.org).

Please encourage your children to make a special point of THANKING these loyal members of our Hunters Woods community who work so hard to make our school a healthy, clean and safe environment for our children to learn and grow. 🍷

**Enter PTA Reflections Contests**

Each year, the PTA Reflections Program encourages the creativity and continuous self-discovery process of children by challenging them to create art inspired by a specific theme. There are currently two Reflections contests open to students:

**2010-11 PTA Reflections Program**

The theme for the 2010–2011 PTA Reflections Program is “Together We Can.” Students may participate in the contest by submitting entries in any six arts areas related to this theme – dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts – and four grade divisions – primary, intermediate, middle/junior, and senior.

**2011-12 Reflections Theme Search**

The theme for each year's Reflections Program is selected from hundreds of ideas submitted by students to the PTA Reflections Program Theme Search. The National PTA is looking for a theme for the 2012–2013 Reflections Program year. The student who submits the winning entry will receive \$100, and his or her theme will be presented at the 2011 National PTA Convention.

The deadline for entries for both contests is **Friday, October 15, 2010**. See the materials that were sent home in your child's Tuesday folder; look online at [www.ptareflections.org](http://www.ptareflections.org) for full program rules.

Questions? Contact [reflections@hwpta.org](mailto:reflections@hwpta.org). 🍷

**2009-10 PTA Reflections Results**

Many congratulations to these Hunters Woods students who received Reflections awards from the Fairfax County Council of PTAs during the 2009–2010 season:

- Outstanding Interpretation: Maya Tischler (Dance Choreography/Primary) and Jillian Tate (Photography/Intermediate).
- Award of Excellence: Illa Lachinov (Literature/Middle), Michael Tischler (Literature/Intermediate) and Sheila Iyer (Photography/Primary).
- Award of Merit: Colin Carmody (Music Composition/Intermediate) and Christine Xin (Visual Arts/Middle). 🍷

**Spotlight on 🍷 Volunteer Needs**

Following is a list of some current opportunities, events and positions for which we need your support. Items marked “URGENT” are requests that need to be filled as soon as possible!

- **Sock Hop/Decade Dance (URGENT)** - October 8. We need help with set up and decorating, staffing the event (serving refreshments, distributing tickets and serving as dance chaperones) and clean up. Sign up to help at [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/sock3](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/sock3) or contact [sockhop@hwpta.org](mailto:sockhop@hwpta.org).
- **Hospitality Chair (URGENT)** - Provide snacks/coffee for monthly PTA meetings. Involves arranging for and taking snacks to meetings – an easy way to become involved, attend PTA meetings, and learn about all of the fantastic ways the PTA supports our students and staff! Please contact [VP4@hwpta.org](mailto:VP4@hwpta.org) for more details.

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- **Tuesday Folder Printing (URGENT)** - Volunteers are needed to copy materials using the PTA's high-speed copier (the risograph) for distribution to the Tuesday folders. All the work is done in the PTA room, where there is plenty of space for children to play or do homework! This work can be done any time that suits your schedule - the risograph is easy to use! Contact Tuesday folder@hwpta.org.
- **Hearing/Vision Screening** - Volunteers are needed to assist in vision and hearing screening on October 12 and October 13. Volunteers are asked to arrive at school at 8:45am on these days. NO prior training is necessary to help with this! Contact JSFleming@fcps.edu.
- **PTA Coat Drive** - Volunteers are needed to help with the community coat drive during the week of October 18-22. We need people to help collect coats in the kiss-n-ride line for two days in the morning (Monday and Tuesday), and to sort and wash coats at the end of the week. Contact community@hwpta.org.
- **Fall Harvest Festival** - We need a Fall Harvest co-chair to work with our chair - all work at home except for set up on November 12 and the actual event on November 13! We also need help with set up/decorating, staffing the event and clean up. Contact harvest@hwpta.org.
- **Spelling Bee Co-Chair** - Co-Chair this event at the school on February 3; attend just three monthly after-school practice sessions starting in November. Contact spelling@hwpta.org.
- **Skate Night** - March 5 at Skate Quest! We are looking for one or two chairs for this event! This event has been prepaid, so we just need [Samantha Van Haaren] someone to make a flyer, advertise the evening, and help make it a success! Contact president@hwpta.org.
- **Office/Clinic Staff Appreciation Luncheon** - April. We need your help to show our HWES staff how much we appreciate them! We need people to answer phones in office and to help in the clinic during the Friday luncheon - the hours are 11:30am-1pm (either two 45 minute shifts or the full 1.5 hours), and for set up and clean up help for the luncheon itself. Contact clinic@hwpta.org.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Chair** - Plan a spring coffee to show our school volunteers how much we appreciate their hard work! We are open to new ideas as we try and thank all those who make our programs possible! Contact president@hwpta.org.

Please feel free to contact Alexis Shield, our PTA VP of Volunteers, at VP4@hwpta.org if you have any questions. Our hope is that you will be able to find various ways to help that fit your schedule and interests! ☺

## Community Coat Drive

**Share Your Warmth!** Do you have children's winter apparel at your house that doesn't fit any more or you don't need? Please share your warmth with other families in our school district this winter! During the week of **October 18 through 22**, we'll be accepting drop-off donations of winter coats, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and snow pants [Amanda Gruver] mornings at the Kiss-n-Ride lane and anytime at the "Share Your Warmth" donation box outside the main office.

For more details or if you are able to help collect or sort, please contact PTA volunteer Karen Montagne, Community Outreach coordinator, at community@hwpta.org. Thank you for helping to keep the children of our community warm this winter! ☺

## SLHS Homecoming Parade

South Lakes High School has INVITED our HWES STUDENTS to MARCH in the SLHS HOMECOMING PARADE!! The parade is on **Friday, October 22**. Any and all interested HWES students who want to display their Mustang Spirit, as well as their parents and siblings, should have their parents email Parade@hwpta.org or turn in the parade flyer to the PTA Box. More information will be distributed to interested parties as we get closer to the date. ☺

## Fall Festival Update

It's official - We will be having our annual Fall Festival at the school on **Saturday, November 13!** Special thanks to our new Fall Harvest Chair, Kirti Purohit, for stepping forward to help organize the Fall Festival. Thanks also to Colleen Line, Laura Bhadra, Sandy Angel, Deb Kaspar, Fiona Mooney, Justin Mooney, and Marisa Besselievre for offering to help.

We still need a co-chair as well as many more volunteers to help run the festival, including set up, clean up, staffing games, food tables, craft areas, etc. If you would be willing to help with any of these tasks, please e-mail harvest@hwpta.org. ☺

## Book Fair News

Look for the PTA Fall Book Fair the week of **November 15-19**. This year's book fair will have a wide variety of books for sale. More information will be sent home in upcoming Tuesday folders.

If you are able to volunteer to help out with the book fair (e.g., set up, clean up, or staffing a shift during Book Fair hours), please e-mail bookfair@hwpta.org. Thanks from the book fair committee! ☺

## Lost and Found

Already missing a lunchbox? Can't find the sweater that was left on the playground? Please make sure you have your child's full name marked in or on all personal items. That way, if any of them DO find their way to the lost and found, our volunteer team will be sure to send them back. ☺

## Box Tops Collection Contest

Last spring, our Box Tops contest was a great success, raising over **\$600** for our school. This year we would like to build on that enthusiasm with a year-long contest. Students will have a chance to win one of three great prizes throughout the year. See the full details and get a printable collection sheet on this week's flyer in your Tuesday folder or on the Hunters Woods PTA website at [www.hwpta.org](http://www.hwpta.org).

## Labels for Education Program

Please submit the UPCs of eligible product labels (everything from Campbell's soup to V8 juice) to help our school earn free merchandise. You will find a list of participating products and printable collection sheets for the Labels for Education program at [www.labels4education.com](http://www.labels4education.com) and on the PTA website at [www.hwpta.org](http://www.hwpta.org).

Feel free to direct any questions about the Box Tops or Labels for Education programs to Nancy Mamros at [boxtops@hwpta.org](mailto:boxtops@hwpta.org).

## Free Money for HWES

You can provide free money to HWES PTA simply by doing your shopping. By linking your store discount cards to Hunters Woods, our school will receive money every time you use your cards. Please take the time to register your card(s) to our school today. The sooner you register, the sooner Hunters Woods will begin to receive contributions. Hunters Woods PTA received **\$2,513** last year!

Safeway, Giant, Harris Teeter, Office Depot and Target each have programs to benefit Hunters Woods. You will find instructions for linking your cards on the HWPTA website at <http://www.hwpta.org/fundraisers.htm>. If you registered last year, you still need to renew this year in order for Hunters Woods to continue to receive contributions.

Please feel free to contact Sandy Angel at [Grocery@hwpta.org](mailto:Grocery@hwpta.org) if you have any questions. Your support is greatly appreciated!

## Mustang Proud

Thanks to all of the families who have jumped at the chance to participate in our new effort to bring in much need funding to run PTA programs, without sending our children out to sell products. From one flyer sent home on the first day of school, we have 250 families who have joined Mustang Pride, and another 73 who have become PTA members. Each of you are supporting the PTA's mission to promote the welfare of children at home, in school and in the community.

There are another 475 families in the school whose support and membership would help the PTA to do even more to support our school and our students. If you haven't had a chance to join Mustang Pride, please do so now.

We are starting two adjunct programs called Mustang Pride Friends and Family and Mustang Pride Business Memberships.

Grandparents, neighbors and friends who would like to support Hunters Woods may join the PTA by becoming Mustang Pride Friends and Family.

Local businesses can support Hunters Woods (and receive acknowledgement and advertising on our website) through Mustang Pride Business Memberships.

Visit our website [www.hwpta.org](http://www.hwpta.org) for printable forms or online credit card payment for any of our programs.

## Where Your Money Goes...

Thank you to the many families who have joined the PTA! Your membership donations have been immense and will allow the PTA to support its many funded programs at HWES.

Your generosity directly benefits the children and families in our Hunters Woods community. Each month, we will share PTA expenditures with you so you can see where your donated money is being spent.

The Hunters Woods PTA 2010-2011 Budget was presented and approved at the September 23, 2010 PTA meeting. Below are excerpts of the budget, highlighting some of the key expenditures:

- \$8,000 Field Trips (bus funding)
- \$6,000 Saturday School (Fine Arts Academy w/ George Mason Univ. for HW students)
- \$4,000 Artist in Residence Programs & 6th Grade Art Gift: for two projects, each with a professional artist working with students across the grade levels
- \$4,000 Distance Learning Programs for all grades
- \$3,000 Support for Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA), where teachers learn about the arts and ways to integrate the arts into their teaching.
- \$2,200 6th Grade Party
- \$2,000 Yearbook
- \$2,000 Staff Appreciation
- \$1,650 Student Activity Scholarships
- \$1,500 Cultural Arts
- \$1,000 Community Outreach
- \$1,000 Spelling Bee, and
- \$1,000 Outdoor Beautification

In addition, some of the PTA's featured programs throughout the year include After School Activities, Book Fairs, Fall Harvest Festival, the Original Works promotion, Bingo Night, Skate Night, and the Sock Hop.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Doug Kaspar, Hunters Woods PTA Treasurer, at [treasurer@hwpta.org](mailto:treasurer@hwpta.org).

## Mini-Grant Award

The PTA awarded the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Team a \$350 grant for science consumables and two electric kettles – your PTA donations at work!

## October PTA Meeting

Please make a note on your calendar to attend our next PTA meeting on **Thursday, October 21**, at 7pm in the school library.