

Hunters Horn

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President's Message

Susan Sather

This October it really feels like fall. This weekend I hope you can all find some time to come celebrate the season at the Fall Harvest Festival. The Festival will be held inside the school and on the grounds. This school-wide family fun event features carnival games, crafts, face painting, music and food. It's a great chance for kids to show off their school to their family, for parents to meet new school friends, and for everyone to have fun. Parents, please consider helping out by working a single shift during the Festival. You can sign up now by writing to HarvestVolunteers@HuntersWoodsPTA.org. If you haven't signed up but find yourself with some time to help on Saturday, just stop by the volunteer sign-in table to see if there is a shift open. If you are still there at closing time, please pitch in and help with clean-up—many hands do make light work.

There are so many people who contribute to making Hunters Woods the dynamic school and community I love. This year we have kicked off the Three For Me volunteer pledge program, and I am impressed with the high number of pledges which have been turned in. The Three For Me co-chairs are entering pledges and starting to track volunteer hours. They're working with the art department on a recognition wall in the front hallway.

I have been working with the Executive Committee to define positions and duties; we are proposing a by-laws change which Jennifer Arakelian details later in this newsletter. The upshot of the change will be growing our Executive Board to one with five Vice Presidents, each with a specific function and set of responsibilities. A document listing the positions and which committees or functions they would oversee is posted on our website, www.HuntersWoodsPTA.org. Right now we are looking for a Vice President of Fund-raising and a Vice President of Family Events. Each of these positions will be one of support for the chairs as well as strategic planning for future plans and programming. Currently, these positions are being covered by existing Executive Board members who would be happy to work with a new member as they transition into a position. Most events and fund-raisers have chairs who are running their event for the second or third time (or more!) so the VP slot will be an easy one to fill right now. The VP

would be able to look at how our current offerings are received and help guide event planning for the future. If you would like to learn more about one of these positions on the Executive Board, please write to me at President@HuntersWoodsPTA.org and we can discuss the positions in more detail. We would especially like to find more magnet or GT parents to join the Board, either as a VP or as a single program Chair.

Thanks to:

Norma Morris, Mary D'Amico and Wendy Pierce for the fantastic Chalk For Peace event and for teaching our children to express such beautiful concepts,

Thea Bazzini for making Sno-Cones with me at Chalk4Peace, and Krysti Randall for help setting up,

Jennifer Arakelian & Tana McNeil for stepping in to track membership and hand out calendars,

Raba Letteri for her work on apparel sales,

Kelly Rowell and Jennifer Arakelian for the entire After School Activity Program,

Karen Mohindra for keeping our Marquee up to date,

Pam Light, Chrissy Tobias and Eleanor Weis for their work on the Sally Foster campaign,

Kelly Kroll, Jennifer Heffner Davis, Andy Chopivsky and Thea Bazzini for all the preparation going into the Fall Harvest Festival,

Debra Kaspar & Jessica Lewis for their work on Three For Me,

Maureen Becker & Jeri Thomas for organizing the Directory Work and Shashi Ravishankar for PTA database management,

Colleen Line for managing uploading all e-mails into web PTN so we'll be able to get out targeted and mass mails.

October Events

- 14-17** Custodial/Cafeteria Staff Appreciation Week
- 15** Individual Picture Day
- 16** Adult Craft & Chat, library, 7-9 PM
- 18** Fall Harvest Festival, 3-6 PM

November Events

- 3-4** No School
Teacher Conferences, Gift Wrap Delivered
- 7** Sock Hop, 7-9:30 PM
- 17-21** Book Fair

The Book Fair is Coming!

The PTA Fall Book Fair is coming November 17-21. Look for volunteer information in future Tuesday folders as well as a list of some of the books available at this year's book fair. Each classroom will visit the book fair twice during the week—once to preview the books and once to purchase (for those who wish to do so). Parents and siblings are welcome any time during our open hours: Monday 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Thursday 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with evening hours 6-8:30 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.. Bookworm provides a terrific selection of books, so come check them out and support your PTA! Volunteers are needed for the times listed above and for set-up on Friday November 14, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and pack-up Friday November 21, 1-4 p.m.. We appreciate any time you can offer. Please contact us at bookfair@hunterswoodspta.org for further details or to specify times you can volunteer.

PTA Membership

The PTA at Hunters Woods has been running a membership campaign for the last month. Currently 398 parents, teachers, and staff have registered and received a copy of the 2008–09 school calendar. What a wonderful beginning for our campaign, equaling approximately half of the Hunters Woods families and teachers. The membership committee will be sending out another membership flyer in the next Tuesday folders in an effort to get 100% participation of the Hunters Woods community! By the end of October, membership cards will be sent to all members who indicated they would like to receive one. Write to membership@hunterswoodspta.org for more information.

FISH for Food at Hunters Woods!

The holiday season is coming soon. Let's help everyone in our community enjoy a fabulous feast by participating in FISH for Food! Bring in non-perishable foods (e.g. peanut butter, jelly, juices, dry cereals, rice, pasta, canned foods) by November 14 to fill holiday food boxes. Every class that fills its box with food receives a special thank you surprise from Herndon–Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help). We appreciate your assistance! For more information, contact Lisa Groves at lisajgroves@yahoo.com.

To learn more about Herndon–Reston FISH, visit www.herndonrestonfish.org.

Spelling Bee Buzz

The PTA is pleased to announce the first annual school-wide Spelling Bee at Hunters Woods. An in-class written elimination bee will be held in classrooms for grades 2–6 during the month of October. All students are encouraged to participate but the Bee is an optional activity. The top two spellers of each class will be invited to represent their class in the school-wide Bee. There will be Spelling Bee study support during the three month study period from November to January. The Hunters Woods Spelling Bee will be held on February 5th. The winner and runner-up of the Hunters Woods Bee will be representing our school at the Fairfax County Spelling Bee on March 21! Write to spellingbee@hunterswoodspta.org with any questions or suggestions.

Custodian and Cafeteria Worker Appreciation

It is time once again to recognize our tireless Hunters Woods custodians and cafeteria workers who do so much to make our school a clean, safe, and healthy place for our children to learn and grow! On **Thursday, October 16** we will be accepting **donations of baked goods** to show our appreciation. Please send in donations with your student or drop off your baked goods in the office or cafeteria any time Wednesday, October 15, or Thursday morning by 9:00 a.m.. Let's all remember to say thank you to these workers when we see them around our school and remind our children to do the same! Questions? Contact Tami Holsten at holstent@cox.net or 703-715-2226.

Sock Hop

Mark Your Calendars! The Hunters Woods Sock Hop is Friday, November 7, from 7:00–9:30 p.m.. There will be Limbo and a Hula Hoop contest, so start practicing up on your skills! A flyer in an upcoming Tuesday folder will provide more details. It will be a fun time!

Primary Science Night

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, October 28 in room 257 from 3:45–4:30 p.m. to begin planning this year's Primary Science Night. Your support is needed for this worthwhile event.

Please contact Susan Kelly, our science resource specialist, for further information.

Let's make Primary Science 9 the best ever !!!!

Bylaw Committee

The PTA announced a bylaw amendment at the PTA meeting on October 2. It consists of a change from *one* Vice President position to up to *five* Vice President positions. This would enable the executive office to divide the 48 different PTA committees among more PTA executive officers. There is a tremendous amount of work required of the executive office and this move would make it easier to manage.

The amendment was announced with a 30 day notification period, and will be voted on during the November 5 PTA meeting. Any questions or comments? Please write to vicepresident1@hunterswoodspta.org.

Chalk4Peace

The Art department would like to thank Hunters Woods Elementary PTA for this year's Chalk4Peace support, not to mention the delicious snow cones. It was by far the best celebration yet! Chalk4Peace headquarters are reporting a huge success over last year.

*Mary D'Amico, Norma Morris, and Wendy Pierce
Art Specialists*

Special Education Committee

The Hunters Woods PTA Special Education Committee has been formed and is looking forward to serving the needs of parents of students who receive special education services. The Committee promotes visibility, education, and awareness within the school community of the needs of students with a disability in order to create a more inclusive environment for both parent and child. We're excited to be planning opportunities this year for parents to network with each other, learn about available services, and share ideas. What else would you like to see us do? Please share your ideas and thoughts about how we can help improve the school experience for children with special needs and their families. To contribute ideas or get involved, please contact the Special Education Committee chair Cheri Smith, at SpecialEd@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.