

Hunters Horn

October 2006 Volume 39, Issue 2



President's Message

Maureen Becker

Well, fall is here. The nights are definitely cooler, the leaves are changing colors, and hopefully we're all back in the groove of school. The Back-to-School nights were a success. A big thank-you to the volunteers who helped with the vote on the PTA 2006–2007 budget those nights. The budget was passed, and we can now begin to put into action the programs included in the budget.

Speaking of the PTA budget, I'm sure that most of you are aware of all of the fundraising we do, but I wanted to share with you **some of the things that we do with that money.**

- When we ask for you to participate in the Sally Foster gift wrap sale, it is because we want to be able to provide money for field trips, staff development, and scholarships for after-school activities.
- When we ask for volunteers to help with the Sock Hop or Fall Harvest Festival, we want to strengthen our community by bringing families together to have fun.
- Our Carrabba's dinner held with the school's Math and Tech night in December is a great to enjoy nice meal without having to cook, and the students get to enjoy math games put together by their teachers. But it also allows the PTA to provide our hardworking staff dinner and show them how much we appreciate all their extra efforts.
- When we are looking for co-chairs for the book fair it is not just to provide a great way to buy quality books while raising money for the PTA. We use the money to get books to children who wouldn't otherwise have the means to buy books. And we offer the staff the opportunity to buy books at cost—so that your students may have more new titles in their classrooms.

October Events

27 South Lakes High Homecoming Parade 4:30 PM

November Events

1 Principal's Coffee 6:30 PM
PTA Meeting 7:30 PM

6–7 No School—Teacher Workdays & Parent Conferences

7 Election Day—Please Vote

17 Thanksgiving Luncheon—families are invited to join students for a special lunch; schedule will be sent home in advance.

23–24 No School—Thanksgiving Holiday

- When we ask you to volunteer at the International Festival, we don't even ask you for money. We want everyone to share in the diversity of our school's cultures, so that we can learn from one another.
- The Silent Auction basket can be a lot of fun to put together, and the evening out is nice, but it also allows us to fund the production of a school play, a nice party and luncheon for our graduating 6th graders, t-shirts for the peer mediators, and enrichment programming such as concerts for our students.

So, the next time you attend one of these or other PTA events, keep in mind why you are there. Not only do we participate so our children can have fun and so we can get to know other parents and our teachers and administrators, we are also there to help fund the important work the PTA does at our school.

I look forward to seeing you around the school!

Bus Driver & Crossing Guard Appreciation Week

October 16 through 20 is Bus Driver and Crossing Guard Appreciation Week. Tell them thank you for safely driving our children to school and home every day. Tell them thank you for standing outside in all kinds of weather to safely cross the students across the street. Tell them thank you for their smiles and kind words each day. Let them know that Hunters Woods appreciates our bus drivers & crossing guard!

On Thursday, October 19 at 8 AM, the PTA will be at the school serving coffee and hot chocolate along with packages of muffins to the bus drivers and crossing guard. If you would like to help out on that morning please call Maureen Becker at 703-391-0164 or email her at maureenhwpta@gmail.com.

Volunteer Badges

If you had a picture taken for a new volunteer badge, you can pick it up from the basket next to the PTA sign-in computer in the Main Office.

Reflections

Students are invited to create original works of art to interpret the theme "My Favorite Place" through Visual Arts, Photography, Musical Composition, Dance Choreography, Film/Video Production or Literature for the PTA's national arts contest, Reflections. Submissions are due by November 8, and will be professionally judged. For more information, contact Reflections Chair, Hilary Bradley at Reflections@HuntersWoodsPTA.org or 703-627-2294, and find rules details and entry forms at www.fccpta.org/reflections/reflections_menu.htm.

Third Annual Drive-Thru Pumpkin Drop-Off!

Kiss-n-Ride drivers only: Please bring your “used” (carved, cracked, even caving-in) jack-o-lanterns for composting at school on the mornings of Thursday and Friday, November 2nd and 3rd. Simply have them ready in your trunk, the back of your minivan, or securely bagged for your student to hand out the car window, and I'll put them into our school compost bins for "recycling" into free, organic, garden soil amendment. Our good friend Mother Nature will work with the weather, the worms, and other resident decomposers to prepare a nice mix of compost that we can use months from now in our vegetable and bulb beds at Hunters Woods.

Last year we collected 135 pumpkins—enough to stuff our three compost bins to capacity and beyond. Can we beat that number this year?

Please remove all candles, candleholders, and anything else not part of the pumpkin before drop-off.

*Catherine Linberg,
Outdoor Beautification Chair & Garden Mom*

Campbell's Labels for Education + General Mills Box Tops for Education = Easy Money

These programs are a great way to support the Hunters Woods PTA every time you shop for groceries!

Just save the labels from eligible Campbell's products and send them to school to help earn free products for the school. Some of the eligible products include: Campbell's soups, Campbell's or Franco-American Spaghettios pasta, and Campbell's tomato juice. Lids from products such as Prego pasta also earn points for the school.

The General Mills Box Tops for Education program works the same way. Just clip the box top from eligible General Mills products and send them to school. Each box top you send earns 10 cents. Eligible products include Cheerios, Chex, Pillsbury Grands! Biscuits, Pillsbury Waffles, Betty Crocker Fruit Gushers, Betty Crocker Frosting, and Ziploc Brand Storage Bags.

Look for a Keep-in-Touch email (KIT) with a more complete listing of products. If you have questions, please contact me at boxtops@hunterswoodspta.org.

Deborah Lannen

PTA Calendars

Thanks for your patience with the calendar deliveries this year. We were overwhelmed with orders and it took a little longer to go through and fulfill all of them. Everyone should have received their calendar by last week. If you have not received yours, or if you have a question about the calendar, please contact calendarsales@hunterswoodspta.org or Mary Ellen Rubenstein at 703-834-8233.

Virginia PTA Proposed Legislation Program

Each year the Virginia PTA asks each PTA unit to present to their general membership their Proposed Legislation Program (PLP). This annual legislation program is developed by the state Legislation Committee and adopted by the membership to represent the official position of the Virginia PTA on a wide variety of issues affecting children and youth.

Please visit the PTA's website (unterswoodspta.org) to read through the five “Legislative Action Items” and the two “Policy Statements” and then use the ballot at the end to record your vote.

You may email me your ballot at president@hunterswoodspta.org or you may send it in with your child to school in an envelope marked “PTA Ballot.” All votes must be received by Tuesday, October 31. The votes will be tallied and sent on to the Virginia PTA legislative committee. Our local unit votes are important because each and every vote counts.

Lost and Found Is Overflowing Already

Please take a moment to mark you child's name on any belongings that can be separated from them at school. Items with a name on them stand a better chance of making it home again. Un-named, unclaimed clothing items are cleaned and donated to local charities.

Epilepsy Awareness Stroll

The Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia (EFVA) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1978 to promote awareness about epilepsy and provide assistance to Virginians with epilepsy, their families, friends, employers, co-workers, and teachers. The EFVA is holding an Epilepsy Awareness Stroll at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston, at 9 AM on Saturday, November 11. There is no registration fee; however, walkers collecting donations of \$20 or more receive a free t-shirt. Delegate Ken Plum is to serve as Master of Ceremonies for this event.

Please join us for an educational and enjoyable stroll on November 11! For more information, to request a registration form, or to volunteer, please contact Deborah Lannen at 703-328-7582 or jwlannen@comcast.net, or visit the EFVA at www.epilepsyfoundation.org/local/virginia.

Carrabbas Dinner

Mark December 7 on your calendar as a day to skip out on cooking! Instead, bring the family to the Carrabbas Italian Dinner served in the Hunters Woods Cafeteria at 5:30 and 6:30 seatings. Look for details in a flyer soon about buying tickets to this fun family event. After dinner, head up to the classrooms and pod areas to play math and science games with the teachers.