

Hunters Horn

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President's Message

Susan Sather

Hi, I am Susan Sather and I'm excited to serve as your PTA President this year. We are all lucky to have an energetic Executive Board with over fifty members whose efforts provide at least one Family Fun event each month. Family Fun events let you and your kids play Bingo, come ice skating, explore the world at the International Festival, dress up and be-bop back to the '50s at the Sock Hop, dine with teachers and friends on Math and Technology Games Night, enjoy the talented performers at the Talent Share, watch spelling whizzes at the Spelling Bee, and take a seat for the magical school musical. These events are all planned and run by unpaid volunteers. Please treat them with the respect and appreciation they deserve for spending dozens of hours preparing a fun event for the school community. They volunteer for the benefit of our community, because it is fun, and to benefit their children.

Why else do they do it? Because they have learned that the more parents are involved in education, from working with their children at home to volunteering or fund-raising, the better the student achievement.

Getting involved in your child's school has long-lasting, positive effects on academic performance and children's overall attitude about school.

Aside from community-building fun events, the PTA provides services to the families and staff. We create the calendar and directory for your reference, produce the newsletter, copy flyers to keep you informed, run the book fair, arrange the school supply sale, and supply school spirit wear. We provide food, cards, and gifts to thank the bus drivers, custodians, teachers, office and clinic staff, and principals. We prepare school museums and science fairs to showcase the children's work, and we offer a comprehensive after school activities program.

Every adult in the Hunters Woods community can contribute to the school, the students, and the community in a real and meaningful way with a minimal investment of time. Running a large event isn't right for everyone, but finding three hours a year IS something that everyone can do.

This year we have started a **Three For Me** program, where each adult in the Hunters Woods community is asked to pledge three hours of volunteer time over the school year. We have already had a fantastic response to the **Three For Me** pledge flyers that went home in Tuesday folders. There are **Three for Me** work slips in the office and at our website. Fill one out after you've worked, and send it in to school in a Tuesday folder or just place it in the **Three For Me** box in the front office.

The **Three for Me** chairs Deb Kaspar and Jessica Lewis are working with the art teachers on an acknowledgement wall where the names of every **Three for Me** volunteer will be displayed after they have filled their pledged hours.

How will you know where to spend those three hours? Read the **Hunters Horn** newsletter and **PTA e-news**—there will be a Volunteer Opportunities section in each one. See a job that fits your life and interests? Don't assume that someone else will do it; decide that it is the job for you and sign up. Can't find the right job? Ask your teacher for ideas or e-mail: ThreeForMe@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.

One easy place to volunteer is at the Fall Harvest Festival. Our big Fun-fair is called the Fall Harvest Festival, and it will take place on October 18, from 3 to 6 p.m.. Parent volunteers from each class staff carnival games in shifts. Sign up by e-mailing Harvest@HuntersWoodsPTA.org

So we've got all these volunteers and they're not paid, Why do we fund-raise? The PTA raises and spends around \$50,000 each year for field trips, assemblies, books, magazines, science kits, and classroom assets such as the laptop carts, projectors, and smart boards. Your donations also help fund special curriculum events like Colonial Day, and support such programs as the artist-in-residence program, Lego League, Odyssey of the Mind, Reflections, and the sixth grade party. We cover safety patrol and student government expenses, teacher enrichment, distance learning classes, book fair scholarships, supplemental yearbook expenses, the sixth grade sculpture, and lunch money for children whose accounts have run out. In addition, \$8,000 is set aside each year to fill teachers' curricular needs.

We can do all these things because of your generosity with our fundraising programs. Please consider participating in the Sally Foster sale or making a donation directly to the PTA by sending a check in an envelope in a Tuesday folder.

Want to dive in deeper, suggest a new event, or explore how to refine an existing event? Come spend an hour at a PTA Meeting. We hold a Principal's Coffee each month at 6:30 p.m., which is immediately followed by the PTA meeting from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.. Childcare is available during the PTA meeting if you R.S.V.P. to me at President@HuntersWoodsPTA.org. Usually we meet the first Wednesday of each month, but this October we will meet on *Thursday*, October 2.

Questions? E-mail me at President@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.

Save The Date

Fall Harvest Festival, Saturday, October 18, 3–6 p.m.

Friday:

- Cake decoration contest
- Fall Harvest Festival poster contest

Saturday:

- Games, games and more games!
- Bake sale in the cafeteria with lots of goodies
- Pizza, soda, popcorn, and cotton candy in the cafeteria
- Cake walk
- Crafts and face painting
- Raffle with cool prizes

October Events

- 2** Principal's Coffee, 6:30 PM
PTA Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 13** Columbus Day, No School
- 15** Individual Picture Day
- 16** Adult Craft & Chat, 7–9 PM
- 18** Fall Harvest Festival, 3–6 PM

Volunteer Opportunities:

Quick Fixes

- **Fall Harvest Festival**, Oct. 18
Work a 1 1/2-hour shift during the **Fall Harvest Festival** (or the evening before).
E-mail HarvestVolunteers@HuntersWoodsPTA.org
- **Picture Day**, Oct. 15
Work a 2-hour shift in school

Open Positions

- **Math Tech Night Dinner**, Dec. 4
Select a local restaurant to provide a catered dinner, and oversee the reservations and volunteers. You choose the meal; we'll help with flyers, R.S.V.P.s, and volunteers.
- **International Festival & Talent/Fashion Show**, Jan. 30, 2009
Sign up kids to add fun and flair to the International Night.
- **Food Fun Machine Committee**
Learn how to operate the Cotton Candy and Sno-Cone machines, then be available to teach others and/or run them at school events.

To learn more about any job or to sign up today, e-mail volunteer@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.

Dads!

Get your **Three for Me** done at the **Fall Harvest Festival**, Saturday, Oct. 18, from 3 to 6 p.m.. Volunteers are needed to help with games, food sales, crafts, clean-up and raffle. We especially need dads to help with the game set-up on Friday, Oct. 17, from 5 to 8 p.m. and the breakdown after the festival. Contact harvestvolunteers@HuntersWoodsPTA.org to volunteer. Thank you!

Donations Needed for the Fall Harvest Festival Raffle

We are requesting donations for the **Fall Harvest Festival Raffle**. If you have new items or would like to purchase items that would make the raffle more fun, please consider donating in support of the Fall Harvest Festival. Items previously donated from parents include toys, quality books, games, tickets, gift cards for children, and treats such as restaurant meals, spa treatments, and gift certificates for teachers and parents.

Please contact harvestraffle@HuntersWoodsPTA.org with *Raffle* in the subject line and we can arrange to have your donation picked up or dropped off at the school.

HWES Word Masters Gearing Up

HWES Word Masters teams for 3rd through 6th grades are still looking for a few fun-loving, wordy parents to lead teams for the 2008-09 season. Word Masters teaches analogies while expanding vocabulary. It is a game-like, low-key effort which meets 15 times per year for one hour each time. Children in grades 3-6 will receive flyers in their Tuesday folders soon with more details. Please e-mail WordMaster@HuntersWoodspTA.org for more information.

Box Tops and Campbell's Labels

On October 26, from 7-9 p.m., there will be a Counting Party where PTA volunteers will count and prepare the Box Tops and Campbell's labels for submission.

If you can help, contact the Box Tops chair Delta Pelgrim at boxtops@hunterswoodspTA.org.

Grocery Programs

The grocery programs at Safeway and Giant are both in place for the 08/09 school year. Please take a few minutes to register your Safeway card at www.escrip.com and your Giant card at www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/index.htm?opco=GNTL, or follow the links from the PTA website. The registration process takes only a few minutes of your time and can mean tens of thousands of dollars for the school if everyone PARTICIPATES! Please remember, even if you registered last year you must RENEW every year after August 1st for the donations to keep accruing.

HWES Odyssey of the Mind— Passing the Torch

The **HWES Odyssey of the Mind** has been a tour de force in FCPS for several years running. HWES has had more teams than any other school in Northern Virginia. Co-coordinators Julia Sullivan and Becky Banghart are ready to pass the torch to the next set of coordinators. We need new co-coordinators to keep the **HWES Odyssey of the Mind League** and the legacy going. Our school needs two or even three co-coordinators due to such a large interest from our student body. Let's continue our success! Find a friend or just volunteer yourself and seriously consider taking on this very rewarding role. The previous co-coordinators will be happy to guide the new co-coordinators. Please e-mail Odyssey@HuntersWoodsPTA.org for more information.

Reflections 2008-2009

Our PTA will provide, once again, the opportunity for Hunters Woods Elementary students to participate in the local, state, and national PTA **Reflections** program. The **Reflections** program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. The theme for the 2008-2009 program is "Wow!". Download forms and rules for each **Reflections** program participant.

Start creating your works of art related to this year's theme and have fun! The deadline for submitting entries will be October 31, 2008.

To find more **Reflections** information and to download forms and rules for each **Reflections** program participant, go to the Hunters Woods PTA website: <http://www.pta.org/2036.htm>.

Sally Foster Gift Wrap

Support Hunters Woods by purchasing your gifts, gift wrap, and Harry London chocolates from **Sally Foster!!** Along with getting high quality items, you will support the largest PTA fundraiser, with 50% of sales coming back to us to fund the PTA programs for the school. Catalogs and order forms went home with students on Tuesday, September 9. Please read the cover letter with your packet for complete details on the fundraiser. Orders will be due Wednesday, October 1.

You can also order online at www.sallyfoster.com. The Hunters Woods account number is 0142037. Friends and family can also use the website. For a limited time, all internet orders over \$70 will be shipped for free. Hunters Woods PTA will continue to receive 50% of internet sales throughout the school year.

Questions can be directed to co-chairs Nancy Mamros, Chrissy Tobias, and Pam Light at giftwrap@HuntersWoodsPTA.org.