

Hunters Woods Elementary School
for the Arts and Sciences
2401 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191



School Phone: 703-262-7400 March 3, 2009 Attendance Line 703-262-7474

Olivia M. Toatley, Principal Pat Christiansen, Acting Assistant Principal Avis Russell, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message

Dear Hunters Woods Families and Friends,
March has certainly come in like a lamb this year. Let's hope it will leave the same way.

Congratulations to Beth Atkins, cast and the crew of Dear Edwina. What a wonderful production. Beth you deserve an Oscar for BEST DIRECTOR. Thank you for all your hard work with our students.

Broadway was alive and well in our Black Box Theatre. Thank you to all the parents, guests, teachers and other staff members who came to see and encourage our students. All of the participants gave 'Oscar-worthy' performances.

Students will be taking SOL's in the coming months. Fifth grade students are taking the writing portion of these assessments this week. Consistent student attendance is critical as students continue to learn new material and prepare for these upcoming assessments. Parents it would be very beneficial if you would make appointments after school.

Please continue to encourage your child to perform his/her best on each and every task, ask questions if he/she doesn't understand something, do their homework, and come to school with a positive attitude.

Finally, it is with mixed feelings that I announce that our Public Health Nurse, Mary Anne Oishi, is leaving HWES. Mary Anne has been chosen to help open the new Coppermine school. This is a wonderful opportunity for her. We will miss Mary Anne and wish her every success. Mary Anne will be transitioning out over the next couple of weeks. She will be showing the ropes to our new PHN Chris Adeen. Chris comes to us by way of St. Croix. Welcome Chris.

Sincerely,



Olivia M. Toatley
Principal

What did the father buffalo say to his son before leaving? (Answer on the last page.)

Spring Picture Day

- On Tuesday, March 24, 2009 individual and class photos will be taken at Hunters Woods Elementary.
- Prepayment envelopes will be sent home soon. It should be returned on Picture Day and given to the photographer with full payment enclosed. This is the least expensive way to purchase your photo.
- If you forget to bring the payment on Picture Day, your photo can be purchased later online at additional cost.
- Solid color clothing creates the best portraits.



It takes many volunteers to help picture day run smoothly. Please contact Glenda Strickland or Elva Liagouris at 703-262-7400 if you are available to volunteer.

Fine Arts Night - Date Change*

Come join the Music, Dance, and Visual Arts departments for Fine Arts Night, *Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 pm. Your family is invited to attend sessions in Dance/Movement, Music and Visual Arts. Parents of Band, Chorus and Strings students will be able to perform along with their children.

PRIMARY SCIENCE NIGHT NEEDS YOU!!!

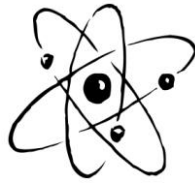
MEETING MARCH 18TH

3:40 PM, Room 257

Contact: Susan Kelly for
further information

Susan.T.Kelly@fcps.edu

Speakers Needed for Career Day!



We are seeking volunteers to speak at the 2nd Annual Career Day on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at Hunters Woods Elementary School. Our goal this year is to have at least five parents from each grade level volunteer to speak. By sharing your career experiences and insights with our students, you will be helping them learn about the world of work and the wide range of career opportunities available to them in the future. We are seeking volunteers from all career clusters. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in sharing information about your career with our students, please contact the school counselors listed below by Friday, March 20th:

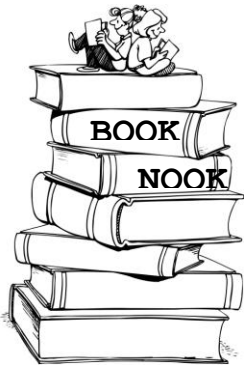
Pat Small 703-262-7475 -

Patricia.S.Small@fcps.edu

Garry Carter 703-262-7452 -

Garry.Carter@fcps.edu

Series Fever



Parents, does your child exhibit the following signs of Series Fever, an epidemic that is sweeping the world:

- ⓐ They just HAVE to read a group of books in order.
- ⓐ They read every chance they get: in the car, at breakfast, after

dinner, before bed, etc.

- ⓐ They stay up late reading in their bed (often with a flashlight) just to find out what happens next.
- ⓐ They can't wait to go to the bookstore or library to pick up the next book in the series and pester you until they get it.
- ⓐ They are willing to camp out and wait in line (without complaining) to be one of the first with the newest offering in the series.
- ⓐ Do you ask your child, "Don't you want to read about something else?"

If your child exhibits one or more of these symptoms, they have Series Fever. Please don't be alarmed. Series fever is not a new epidemic. It has existed for years. Do you remember reading the

Encyclopedia Brown series as a child? Did you enjoy solving the mysteries in the Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys books? Did you dive into a Bobbsey Twins adventure? Was Ramona the Brave one of the books in a series that you just had to read or was it the adventures of Superfudge? If so, you had Series Fever too.

It seems that series "fever" has hit an all time high. Authors have recognized the connection that children are making with their characters and are writing series of books to keep children interested in reading. The Amelia Bedelia, Boxcar Children, Amber Brown, Clementine, Goosebumps, Secrets of Droon, A to Z Mysteries, Magic Treehouse, Harry Potter, Artemis Fowl, and Twilight are just a few of the popular series that have children clamoring for more reading time.

According to literacy experts, Fountas and Pinnell, series books are valuable because they "provide a strong scaffold for reading comprehension. Children have the experience of continuing meaning over a longer period of time and extend their ability to remember important elements of text.

- ⓐ Children become interested in the topics, characters, or plots so that they are motivated to read more.
- ⓐ As children move through a series, they experience the satisfaction of bringing a great deal of background knowledge to reading.
- ⓐ Readers get to know characters so that they are better able to talk about their characteristics and infer their feelings and motivations.
- ⓐ Children have the experience of reading connected text over time.
- ⓐ Readers learn the process of making many connections between texts-typical situations, problems, settings, character traits, style of writing and illustrations."

These are all characteristics of good readers. Children who are able to exhibit these qualities are **constructing meaning while reading text**. They are able to do the most important thing when they read, comprehend.

So, when you hear the next book in your child's favorite series is available, don't be put off because they are reading "another one of those books." Run down to your local library or bookstore and get the next book. As your children mature as readers, their interests in types of books that they like to read will change. Their interest in types of

series that they enjoy reading will also change. In the meantime, continue to cultivate children who have the fever for the "flavor" of a good series book!

From the Art Department

The Arts Integration Celebration Museum held February 11 and 12 was a huge success. Our new additions added a richness that completed the meaning of integration. Deep



appreciation goes out to Brian Smith and his orchestra, Kathryn Fredgren and her dance crew demonstrating how you can integrate geometry into dance, 4th grade preview of their interactive museum, and of course the fantastic, inspiring, heart-felt tableau from the 3rd grade classes! These performances plus the great projects from our classroom teachers can make any teacher, student, parent, and administrator proud to be a part of Hunters Woods Elementary School of the Arts and Sciences.

Special thanks to the super volunteer AIC coordinator, Lisa Groves! **(Continued on next page.)**

6th Grade Artist-in-Residency

The sixth grade is preparing to create our school's new mosaic. Our Artist-in-Residence, Bonnie Fitzgerald, owner of Maverick Mosaics in Vienna, will be teaching 6th grade Mosaic workshops during the week of 3/9. She will return in the Spring to complete installation. Volunteers are needed and welcome!

HWES parents have received a list of requests for donations or loans of equipment for the project. We will continue to accept materials through completion of installation. Any questions, please contact Wendy Pierce, HWES Art Specialist 703-262-743.

We are grateful to our supportive and generous PTA for making this wonderful HWES tradition possible!

Kindergarten Orientation

Do you have or know a child who may be eligible for kindergarten next year? Kindergarten Orientation for Hunters Woods is scheduled for Monday, May 18, at 1:00 PM.

Children who will turn five on or before September 30, 2009, are eligible for kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school

year. To verify if Hunters Woods Elementary serves your residence, you may ~~access~~ [access www.fcps.edu/boundary](http://www.fcps.edu/boundary) through the ~~internet~~ Internet, or call 703-329-9831 for boundary information.

You will find in today's Tuesday folder, a preschool survey form to be completed for children eligible to enter kindergarten, or for children now attending private school who will enter first or second grade at Hunters Woods for the next school year. Detailed information regarding our Kindergarten Orientation will be mailed to each family who returns a preschool survey form.

If you have any neighbors with preschool children who did not receive a survey form, please share this form with them, or ask them to stop by the office to pick up a form. Thank you for your help with this survey.

SOL Testing Schedule

Students in Grades 3-6 will be taking the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests during the period of Monday, May 18 through Friday, June 5, 2009. The exact days your child will be tested can be verified through their classroom teacher. It will be very helpful if you can avoid appointments that will take your child out of school during this time period.

It will help your child perform his or her best if he or she has had a good night's rest, a healthy breakfast, and comes to school with a positive attitude.

March is National Nutrition Month

In partnership with the American Dietetics Association, the Energy Zone is celebrating National Nutrition Month.

Energy Zone's Top 3 Nutrition Facts:

1. Use MyPyramid.gov as a reference for healthy eating habits. Lifestyle changes are more effective than "quick fixes".
2. There are many diet myths. Make sure the nutrition information you are getting is from a credible source - a registered dietitian or science-based articles.
3. Evaluate a food by reading nutrition labels. Basic understanding of a food label can help you make smart food choice.

Eat Whole Grains Every Day

The 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPyramid recommend six servings of grains daily. The Guidelines continue to advise that we eat 3 or more of those servings as whole grains. Whole grains

are an important source of fiber and reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. Today, many Americans only eat one serving per day and over 30 percent do not eat whole grains at all.

The Whole Grain Council, a non profit group has developed a consumer- friendly stamp for whole grain products. The stamps below identify whole grain products as "good, excellent, and 100% excellent source."



If a product does not have the stamp, read the label. When the first ingredient is whole wheat, whole grain, oatmeal, brown rice, bulgur, popcorn, or wild rice, the product is most likely a whole grain food.

Daily whole grain menu suggestions:

Breakfast	Lunch and Dinner	Snacks
Whole grain cereal	Whole grain bread	Whole grain crackers
Oatmeal	Tortillas or wraps	Popcorn
Whole grain bagel	Whole grain pasta	Whole grain pretzels
	Brown rice	Whole grain chips

School meals include several whole grain products such as pasta, cold cereals, rolls, and pizza crust.

Riddle Corner Answer: Bison!