

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



School Phone: 703-262-7400

June 3, 2008

Attendance Line 703-262-7474

Olivia M. Toatley, Principal

Avis Russell, Asst Principal

Gail Porter, Acting Asst Principal

Principal's Message

It is a busy time for students, parents and teachers. We all know about the SOL testing and have seen the "Quiet Please" signs posted at various places throughout the building during the testing times. The teachers and staff greatly appreciate the efforts parents continue to take during the SOL testing to have students in school on time.

I have had numerous positive comments about the new mural on the front of our school. Our students and muralist Michael Pilato, the Artist in Residence in early May, did an incredible piece of art. Mr. Pilato returned to put finishing touches on the mural this week.

There is so much to mention this month. The sixth grade STARS performance at the Harris Theater at George Mason University was beyond our wildest expectations. The students were well prepared and performed as a team. Bravo to the sixth grade team and all the specialists that helped produce an amazing well done professional performance.

Our third graders had an evening of Tableau and Movement Performance. Every third grade class had the opportunity to express themselves by creating a pose and telling a story (a "lesson") in social studies, science, language arts or math. All of these activities related to the SOLs.

The final, but not the least important item that I mention is "Amy's Amigos." I mentioned this group in my last newsletter. This past Saturday approximately 50 of our Hunters Woods families gathered for the Relay for Life to raise funds for cancer research. They walked in the rain and stayed in tents. Our students are to be commended for their compassion and sense of community. They took responsibility for getting students from Hunters Woods to participate in the Relay for Life and as a result became the number one Youth Fundraising group for the relay. It is estimated that they raised over \$8,000. Our students know about commitment and community. I am humbled by their actions.



End Of The School Year Changes

As many of you may already know, the School Board has voted to reduce the 2007-08 standard school year calendar by two days.

As a result of this vote our Sixth Grade Advancement ceremony will be held Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 6:30 pm.

The last day of school for students will be a **Monday, June 16. Students will be dismissed at approximately 11:05.** All end-of-the-year parties will be held on Friday, June 13th. Dismissal will be at the usual time of 3:15 pm.

Report cards are to be distributed on the students' last day, Monday, June 16. Report cards not taken home by students will be returned to the office, where they will be kept until picked up by the student or parent. *Parents who would like for their student's report card to be mailed will need to provide the office with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.*

Notice: The cafeteria will not be serving lunches on Friday June 13 due to class parties and the sixth grade luncheon.

ATTENTION Parent or Guardian of a Current Fifth Grader:

All students in Virginia must receive a booster dose of Tdap vaccine **prior to entering sixth grade**, if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT, or Td).

Please check your child's immunization records carefully. If your child is required to have a Tdap booster, we ask that your child receive it and that you provide documentation to the school prior to June 13, 2008. This documentation can be a copy of your child's immunization record, or a note from your physician listing the date of the most recent Tdap booster shot.

The Tdap booster can be obtained from your child's physician. If your child is 11 years old, he or she should get the Tdap immunization and documentation should be provided to the school immediately. However, if your child is still 10 years old, he or she may receive the Tdap vaccine approved for 10 year olds or wait until the eleventh birthday to receive the vaccine approved for 11 year olds. If the eleventh birthday is after the first day of school, your child must have a medical exemption from the doctor stating when he or she will receive the Tdap in order to attend school.

Immunizations required for school are also available at the Fairfax County Health Department at no charge. Clinic locations and walk-in hours are available online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/hdclinicsite.htm>. Students receiving immunizations at the Health Department must be accompanied by an adult, and students should bring their immunization records to the Health Department clinic with them.

It is most important that you attend to this matter soon. **Sixth graders cannot begin school in the fall without documentation of having had the Tdap booster or having had a tetanus-containing vaccine within the past five years.**

STARS (Student Theater Arts Reflections Spectacular) Performance at GMU Generates Stellar Reviews

"Last night I got to watch a fantastic STARS performance as a parent, a co-worker, and a student. As a parent, I was proud as a peacock, and grateful to the fabulous, professional staff who have nurtured and educated my dramatic little girl. As a co-worker I was also extremely proud, knowing the effort, dedication, patience, and flexibility that is required annually to produce such an integrated performance/experience. And I was a student as well! I attended with the members of my Fine Arts Integration class, and we were to reflect on our discussion board. Everyone has expressed how impressed, inspired, motivated, and amazed they felt watching the performance! It was a wonderful opportunity for us to see integration in action, and to see how all of the students can be drawn in through the arts, and have the opportunity to shine in a positive role."
Debbie Szymczyk, Instructional Asst-Hunters Woods ES

"...Many parents I spoke to later in the evening were completely awestruck! They came to see a "kids" play and left feeling they had experienced a genuine children's theatre production!" *Karen Tate, Instructional Asst-Hunters Woods ES*

"Bravo and job well done Sixth Grade Students! THANK YOU to all of the classroom teachers and specialists who worked so hard and inspired our students to make STARS 2008 a spectacular success. The audience at GMU's Harris Theatre was thrilled and amazed. You are to be proud of this accomplishment." *Olivia M. Toatley, Principal - Hunters Woods ES*

