

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



School Phone: 703-262-7400

November 5, 2008

Attendance Line 703-262-7474

Olivia M. Toatley, Principal

Avis Russell, Assistant Principal

Gail Porter, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message

Dear Hunters Woods Families and Friends:

The first quarter at HWES has been an exciting one. Our students have made tremendous progress and have shown a commitment to their learning. They have taken part in many wonderful, exciting and thought provoking learning activities. Our staff is committed to preparing engaging lessons that will meet our students where they are and take them to higher levels of understanding. I hope that your parent/teacher conferences have provided you with many insights into the learning and instructional experiences your child has each day. Our goal for your student is that he or she will acquire academic knowledge while developing into a responsible, respectful, honest, and compassionate member of the HWES learning community. Thank you for your continuous support of our school. The home/community partnership we enjoy is one of our greatest assets.

As the days get shorter and eventually colder, more students will request to be driven to school. The school bus provided by FCPS is the recommended option. However, more cars will make for longer lines in the Kiss and Ride lane. Please be mindful of the need to be courteous and to follow the Kiss and Ride rules for loading and unloading students (Please see "Kiss and Ride Reminders" in this issue of the Mustang Message).

Finally, on behalf of the HWES staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy and joyous Thanksgiving. During this season, we acknowledge how blessed we are to be part of this wonderful learning community called Hunters Woods Elementary for the Arts and Sciences.

Sincerely,

Olivia M. Toatley
Principal

Attention Parents: We need your help!



Impact Aid survey forms were handed out during parent/teacher conferences November 3rd and 4th. The signed, dated and completed survey should be returned to your child(ren)'s teacher no later than **Monday, November 10**. If you have already turned in your survey form, thank you very much for your help. If you have not turned in your survey form, please do so, ASAP!

Parents can access the survey form online at <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/forms/fs57.pdf> Impact Aid survey forms need to be completed for **each** student in the family. Hunters Woods is required to submit a completed survey form with a parent signature for **each student** enrolled in grades K through 6.

The information collected by the student-parent survey form is treated in strict confidence and is used to meet the requirements necessary for schools to receive federal impact aid funds. Fairfax County Public Schools receive approximately \$3,000,000 annually from this program. Thank you for helping us to meet this FCPS requirement.

Kiss and Ride Reminders

Parents, to ensure safety for everyone, please observe the following rules when loading and unloading students:



- Supervised drop off time is 8:15 to 8:35 am – after this time, there is no longer a staff member to supervise Kiss and Ride. After 8:35 am, please pull up to the front entrance and drop your child off.
- Remain in driver's seat – staff can assist with car doors.
- More students are coming out of their cars on the left side instead of right side of the cars (mainly due to baby seats or objects blocking the door). Please do not pass other cars that are loading or unloading.
- Parents are parking on the left side of the Kiss n' Ride lane to either escort their children who are bringing larger things like posters or birthday goodies. Please stay to the right, and our staff will help with unloading. If you must park and assist your child, please do not use the Kiss and Ride area.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Gail Porter, Assistant Principal at 703-262-7408.

Art Department Request

The Art Department would like to ask families to donate paper towels, gallon sized ziploc bags, baby food jars and yogurt cups. Thank you in advance!!

Wendy Pierce
Art Specialist

Science Corner

Star-Gazing

Please join us for an evening of star-gazing and sky-watching at the Observatory Park in Great Falls, VA!

On Friday, November 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Hunters Woods families are invited to join Mary Blessing from the Herndon High School Planetarium and a team of sky-watchers who will use their telescopes to show us nebula, constellations, and even other galaxies.

Families will learn how to use a sky map, identify stars, and much more at this exciting event. Look for information in this week's Tuesday folder.

To sign up, email the number of family members attending to Rachel Negri at rachel.negri@fcps.edu.

All are welcome! Dress warmly as this event is completely outdoors.



Primary Science Night

Primary Science Night needs your support! Please come to the planning meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 3:30 PM in room 257.

For further information, please contact Susan Kelly at Susan.T.Kelly@fcps.edu

Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Plans

Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late, or to close early.

Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

Decisions on schedule changes are made after careful study of the best information available from many sources including weather services, the highway department, the police, and FCPS transportation staff members who are out checking the roads. FCPS will make every effort to decide, before 5 a.m., whether to close or delay schools and will begin communicating the decision once it is made. The 5 a.m. decision time is a goal. Weather conditions can



deteriorate after 5 a.m., which means that it may not be possible for FCPS to meet that goal.

While no sources dealing with weather predictions can be infallible, decisions are made with one overriding consideration—the safety of all students—those who ride buses and those who walk to school each day.

FCPS has several schedules set up to deal with inclement weather; these are put into effect when conditions threaten the safety of children who are walking or riding school buses to schools. These schedules are:

(1) Keep schools closed. (2) Open two hours late. (3) Close two hours early.

In every case of a schedule change:

- Tune in to local radio and television stations (including cable Channel 21, a channel programmed by the school system), which are notified as soon as a decision is made.
- Check www.fcps.edu.
- Call the FCPS hot line at 800-839-FCPS (3277).

Tip: Program this number into your phone's speed dial.

Do not phone the school or one of the stations for this information. To receive this information via e-mail, sign up for the FCPS Keep in Touch (KIT) e-mail notification system. (See [article below](#) on how to subscribe and how to update your Keep in Touch information or go to www.fcps.edu/kitt/.) For more information, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/news/weather.htm>.

If you want to learn more about how FCPS administrators decide to delay or close schools during inclement weather, you can check out a short video, which is available online by going to

http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/streaming/ss8_snowdaze.asx

Reference Guide for Emergency Closings

When there is a delayed opening on a Monday, school remains open for the **normal Tuesday-Friday hours** and we do not observe the Monday early closing schedule. All-day closing and delayed opening decisions are made by 5:30 a.m. Early closing decisions are made by 10:30 a.m.

Hours	Monday	Tuesday-Friday
One-Hour Delayed Opening	9:35 a.m.-3:15 p.m.	9:35 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
Two-Hour Delayed Opening	10:35 a.m.-3:15 p.m.	10:35 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
One-Hour Early Closing	8:35 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	8:35 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

New Keep in Touch System in Place

The previous vendor for KIT was unable to handle the volume of messages that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) sends. FCPS is pleased to announce that the new vendor is Blackboard Connect, Inc., an award-winning company with years of experience with K-12 education systems, many as large as or larger than FCPS.

This new system will use contact information already in FCPS databases. A subscription service will be added later.

It is important that your child's school has all your current telephone numbers and e-mail addresses so that you will not miss out on any important messages. In order to update your contact information, please go to your child's school and ask for an emergency care information form. You may also update your contact information through FCPS 24-7 Learning.

The new system will enable FCPS to provide parents with vital information through e-mail and eventually through cell phones, home phones, TTY/TDD receiving devices, and other text-receiving devices. This system can be used to notify parents and staff members of school closures and contingency plans due to inclement weather and other late-breaking developments. It can also keep you informed about important events at your child's school.

FCPS will be able to target messages to specific groups of parents or staff members, providing only particular groups of parents with information about specific student matters such as band practice, club information, late buses, and parent-teacher conferences.

For more information and updates about implementation of the new system, go to www.fcps.edu/kit.

SACC Winter Program Schedule

SACC Winter Program centers will now be closed on Friday, January 2 due to the mandatory furlough for all non-emergency county personnel. SACC is also closed Thursday, January 1 for the New Year holiday. SACC Winter Program centers will be open Monday 12/29, Tuesday 12/30, and Wednesday 12/31 **only**. Parents please start making arrangements now for the care of your child(ren).

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc/SACCWinter.htm>

Winter SACC Program 2008	
Program Dates: Dec. 29-31, 2008	
Hours: 7:15 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.	
Ages: Kindergarten - 6th grade	
Winter SACC Centers	
Camelot	Lane
Cameron	Lemon Road
Churchill Road	London Towne
Fairview	Mantua
Floris	Marshall Road
Groveton	Oakton
Hunters Woods	Poplar Tree
Key Center*	Riverside
Kilmer Center*	Rolling Valley
Kings Glen	Westbrier
Lake Anne	Westlawn

*Sites serving children with multiple disabilities, ages 5-21.

Thanksgiving Luncheon

You are invited to our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon which will be held on **Friday, November 21**, in the cafeteria. Family members are welcome to join their child(ren) for lunch. The adult lunch price is \$3.40 and student lunch price is \$2.40. **Please bring the exact change or small bills.**

Below is the Menu and Schedule of Classes.



Thanksgiving Luncheon Menu

- Roast Turkey with Dressing
- Whipped Potatoes with Gravy
- Green Beans
- Cranberry Sauce
- Frozen Pumpkin Yogurt
- Choice of Milk

Iced Tea and Lemonade are Optional Adult Beverages.

Thanksgiving Luncheon Schedule	
Time	Class
10:20 – 10:50	Shernoff, Larkin
10:30 – 11:00	Birk, Stephens
10:40 – 11:10	Hunstad, Richards
10:50 – 11:20	Washington, Leonato
11:00 – 11:30	Germani, Schiffler
11:10 – 11:40	Travis, Raphael
11:20 – 11:50	Greeley, Hansen
11:30 – 12:00	Thomas, Merritt
11:40 – 12:10	Goodwin, Paulson
11:50 – 12:20	Stefano, Cradle
12:00 – 12:30	Anderson, Garrison
12:10 – 12:40	Azimi, Brody
12:20 – 12:50	Sink, Adams
12:30 – 1:00	Bloch, Puga
12:40 – 1:10	Leniart, Ahn
12:50 – 1:20	Reynolds, Fisher
1:00 – 1:30	Downs, Kendall
1:10 – 1:40	Cooper, Walenius
1:20 – 1:50	Glenn, Carter
1:30 – 2:00	Donnelly, Kirylo

PTA Fall Book Fair



The Book Fair is coming! The PTA Fall Book Fair is on November 17-21.

There will be a wide selection of books from bookworm plantation. The classes will have a chance to preview

books early in the week, and will return to purchase books if desired. Parents are welcome to come and browse the books as well. Volunteers are needed to help set up the book fair on November 14th, during the week of the book fair, and for pack up on November 21st. Please e-mail bookfair@hwpta.org if you can volunteer. Thanks from the Book Fair Committee.