

HOMESTEAD-WAKEFIELD PTA NEWSLETTER



Every child. One voice.

December, 2009

HOLIDAY WISHES FROM PTA

It is hard to believe that we are about to enter the middle of the 2009-2010 school year. It seems just yesterday that we were receiving our children's classroom assignments. The PTA and all of our hardworking volunteers have had a successful start to the school year. Many thanks go out

from the Board to those of you who have supported our efforts.

The Walk-A-Thon was a wonderful start. It allows us to fund field trips, assemblies, subscriptions, Winter Wonderland and many other fun events for the children of our school.

We were excited to announce

that HWES PTA has received 100% participation for membership from our teachers and administration! It is a pleasure to partnership with them and advocate for our children.

We look forward to a new year and the many exciting opportunities that it will offer us.

As we enter the Holiday season, we hope that you enjoy this time off with your family. The PTA Board wishes you and your family a safe and healthy New Year!

Happy Holidays,
Everyone!



Important December Dates

Friday, December 4 - Winter Wonderland

Monday, December 7 - Winter Concert - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Monday, December 14 - Board of Ed Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 21 - Board of Ed Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 23 - Early Dismissal - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 24-Friday, January 1 - Winter Break



Winter Wonderland

The date of this year's Winter Wonderland is set for Friday, December 4 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Homestead building. There will be the annual holiday shop, games, crafts and food for everyone. Also, School Spirit items will be available at Winter Wonderland. We will have stickers, tattoos, pencils, pens (new item!) and much more. Stop by to take a look and pick up some stocking stuffers. Bring the family out for a night of family fun!



**** NO PTA MEETING THIS MONTH - SEE YOU NEXT YEAR ****



Committee Information and Updates

School Spirit—thank you to everyone who ordered School Spirit wear. Orders have been placed and all apparel orders will be delivered to school before winter break - December 23. Be sure to wear your school spirit apparel every Friday through the year to show your **WILDCAT PRIDE!!**

Yearbook— pictures...we need pictures from all events! sul-lizin@comcast.net and christy.parsons@comcast.net

Membership—Mrs. Kamyszek's class enjoyed their lunch with "Whiskers the Wildcat"! They all had a blast! Special thanks to Tracy Martin for going above and beyond!

American Education Week - a big thank you to all of our volunteers who were happy greeters and helped make the week successful!

Family Food Night - thank you to all who came out to Friendly's last month to support HWES.

Reflections - thank you to all students who submitted works of art! 301 entries were received and 127 students participated. On February 18 at 7:00 p.m., all HWES students participating in Reflections will be honored at a ceremony! Please note that this will be an evening event...something new this year...to allow more families to attend. Mark your calendars now! More information to come.

Basket/Vera Bradley Bingo - this committee is in need of volunteers to help solicit door prize gift certificates, sponsorships for the baskets/purses in order to fill each one nicely, working that night, helping behind the scenes, etc. Please contact Christine McPherson at mcperson-family@comcast.net.

TEACHER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!!



Mrs. Nicole Fannin (2nd grade)

- **Favorite season:** Summer. I enjoy relaxing by the pool and laying in the sun. As a teacher, this is also the only time we can really take a vacation, so there's usually a lot to look forward to this time of year. Now, don't get me wrong, winter is a fun season as well. I don't think you ever grow out of getting excited when snow is in the forecast! I love it when it snows and I love the surprise of having either a delayed opening or a day off from school!
- **Favorite subject when you were in elementary school:** Math and art. I like math because I enjoy the challenge of solving different problems. Art was one of my favorites because I loved making things and being creative. I took a bunch of art classes in high school and was even the president of the art club!
- **Most adventurous thing you have ever done:** During my honeymoon, my husband and I went to the Atlantis in the Bahamas. While we were there, we swam with the dolphins. This was the coolest experience! The dolphins put their noses on our feet and pushed us across the water! Then, we got to swim out and have the dolphins jump over us. The force we felt from them jumping was amazing! If you like dolphins, this is definitely something you should try!
- **Something you would like us to know about you:** As some of you may already know...my husband and I are expecting TWINS in June! We are thrilled! My husband and I were actually in the same third grade class and we celebrate our birthdays on the same day! (December 15th). And, I have three cats that I adore, Abby, JD and Simba.



Market Day



Due to the holidays in December, there were two pick-ups in November. So there are no pickups this month!

Our next sale's cut-off is Jan 5th, right after we get back from break, so plan to order before the last school day in December! There will be more exciting deals, so stay tuned.

Board of Ed Meeting



Planning options have been approved for the future of The Bel Air Schools Campus. On November 23, the Harford County Board of Education voted to select plans for The John Archer School to be attached to Bel Air Middle, as well as a one-building concept for HWES. Both projects focus on sustainable "green" design as well as an attempt to maximize functionality for students, staff, and community use. While funding for these projects is currently not available, this vote allows for the design stage to move forward.

Elementary redistricting is also under way. The addition of Red Pump Elementary to the school system calls for a Comprehensive Elementary School Redistricting Initiative. New attendance areas for elementary schools are scheduled to be approved by May of 2011 in order to allow time to plan for the projected occupancy of Red Pump Elementary by August, 2011.

The Harford County Public Schools web site (hcps.org) has information on the Redistricting Initiative as well as the proposed plans for our schools. If you're interested in learning more or ever have problems finding the information you are looking for, please let a PTA board member know and we will do our very best to point you in the right direction. Your interest is strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated!

Did You Know...

...HWES has a partnership with Kiddie Academy who independently provide after-school services. For more information, call (800) 554-3343.

January PTA Meeting

Please note that our January PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 in the Homestead Media center. Our meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of each month. But, school will be closed on January 19. Therefore, we will be moving our meeting up one week. Please consider joining us for up-to-date information about the school, events in the near future and opportunities to help and be involved in your child's school. No amount of time is too small...any time you can spare to volunteer makes a difference.

For those who have not had an opportunity to attend a PTA meeting yet this year, please come to find out who we are and what we do for the school. We cannot wait to meet you!

As always, we welcome your question, comments and suggestions.

Nurses Corner



Just a reminder - as soon as we are notified that the Health Department has the H1N1 vaccine, an Alert Now call will go out to all homes and the consent forms will be sent home that same day.

Barrie Somerfield (H) and Barbara Pace (W)

Links of Interest



Fun Things Over Break:

www.bouncepartynplay.com
www.putt-putt.com
www.iceworld.com

2009-2010 PTA Board

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