

WILDCAT WATCH

Volume 11
February 12, 2009

Mr. Hunsinger's Wildcat Wisdom

I hope everything is going well as we head into the second half of the school year. There have been many outstanding things accomplished these first two quarters, and we will continue to provide the best for all students throughout the school year.

I appreciate the outstanding support for the Gianni fundraiser. Over \$2000 will be used to purchase additional materials. Each year a different grade level is chosen for this profit reward, and this year will be kindergarten.

It seems like a long way off, but kindergarten registration is scheduled for Friday, May 1, in all Harford County Public Schools. As the date approaches, we will send out additional information with specifics about the program and what is needed on registration day.

HCPS has a Young Authors Contest each year, and we are pleased to announce that Julia Salcedo in Mrs. Coppage's classroom won second place among the fourth grade students throughout the county. Great job, Julia!

Our school received a special recognition for our successful partnership with Stevenson University. As a PDS (professional development school), we will be presenting at a national conference next month in Florida. The presenters will be Dr. Kathy Ullrich, Coordinator of Professional Development for Stevenson University (formerly Villa Julie College), and Ms. Conley and Ms. Lyons, current teachers at HWES and Villa Julie grads. This is a celebration of an outstanding partnership between Stevenson University and HWES that is now in its tenth year.

Our partnership is known statewide as one of the best programs that greatly benefits both our school and the university. Over the years we have been able to hire several outstanding teachers from this program not only here at HWES, but throughout the county as well. We look for this strong relationship to extend long into the future.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the HWES Book Fair which is fast approaching. Your children will be bringing home a preview schedule, as well as a date and time for purchasing the books. Please look carefully at the list and select the books you feel will be best for your children. I appreciate all the time and effort our outstanding PTA puts into this worthwhile event.

We will have our monthly PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 17, at 9:30 a.m. in the Homestead cafeteria. This is a once-a-year event trying to attract those who are not able to attend evening meetings. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful PTA here at HWES.

On Tuesday, February 10, we had our *Jump Rope for Heart*. Our physical education team (Mrs. Eagan, Mrs. Lawrence and Ms. Javerbaum) did a wonderful job coordinating this event. The money collected will go to the American Heart Association in the effort to fight heart disease. Our total amount collected has not been counted; however, I will share that number in a future *Wildcat Watch*. Thanks to the children and their sponsors for their efforts in this special undertaking.

Dates of Importance:

February 13	Early Dismissal – 1:00 p.m.
February 16	Schools and Offices Closed – Presidents' Day
February 17	PTA Meeting – 9:30 a.m. – Homestead Cafeteria
February 20	Book Fair Preview and Family Game Night – Homestead Building – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
February 24	Reflections Celebration 9:15 – 10:00 in the Wakefield Gym for primary students. 10:30 – 11:15 in the Homestead Gym for intermediate students. <i>There is a special ceremony to honor the Band Day participants who will be on a field trip that day. That ceremony will be from 9:00 - 9:10 in the Homestead Gymnasium. Parents are welcome to attend the ceremonies.</i>

PAWS IN THE HALLS

Homestead Special Area teachers rewarded students who demonstrated excellent hallway/dismissal behavior. These students received a "Paw" to let them know that they were doing a great job. We are proud to acknowledge the following students for their respectful manners:

Chris T	Danny V	Michael G	Breon V
Jared O	Evan W	Tristan A	Ryan D
Kahlil T	Lena S	Marshall F	Delaney A
Jack R	Max C	Grace C	Rachael H
Julie B	Joe K	Cole S	Cameron P
Colleen B	Shelby B	Tony N	Sophia D

Watch out!
You never know when you will get a
"Paw in the Hall"

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

February 18 - String Day Field Trip, 9:00-12:00 - String Day Concert, 7pm. Both at BAHS (Fifth Grade Only)
February 24 - Band Day Field Trip, 9:30-1:30 - Band Day Concert, 7 pm. Both at PMMHS (Fifth Grade Only)

FROM THE BEL AIR MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

It is once again time to begin preparations to enroll incoming 5th grade students in the music performing groups. The evening meeting for incoming 6th music performance students and their parents will be **Wednesday March 4 at 6:30 PM in the Bel Air Middle cafeteria.**

THE EVENING OF MARCH 4 WILL BE THE PRIMARY AUDITION TIME FOR CHORUS AND PERCUSSION STUDENTS. STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PLAYING PERCUSSION OR SINGING IN THE CHORUS SHOULD BE AT THIS MEETING. AUDITION MUSIC FOR PERCUSSION STUDENTS WILL BE SENT TO MUSIC STUDENTS IN FEBRUARY.

READING ROCKS!

January was Reading Month in the state of Maryland. At Homestead/Wakefield, we chose READING ROCKS for the theme this year. The children began the month with an entertaining assembly featuring Mr. Bill Wood, a very popular storyteller. (Many thanks to our PTA for providing the funds for the assemblies!)

Each household received a calendar of events which would take place throughout the month. The children enjoyed such activities as mystery music on the morning announcements, crazy hat and crazy socks day, the wildcat mascot delivered stars to each classroom, the children came dressed as their favorite ROCK STAR, a reading camp-in was enjoyed by all classes while the children read their brand new books which were presented to them through the kindness of our PTA. *Of course, the greatest activity of the month was the terrific amount of reading which was accomplished by our students.* **591,922 MINUTES WERE READ!!!**

This fantastic accomplishment resulted from the many minutes each class read each night. The following classes read the most minutes: A.M. Pre-K – Mrs. Griffin – 1,851 minutes; Kindergarten – Mrs. Marousek – 6,830 minutes; Grade 1 – Mrs. Clark – 12,650 minutes; Grade 2 – Mrs. Moore – 11,683 minutes; Grade 3 – Ms. Bowser – 30,363 minutes (Top reader was Nicole B); Grade 4 – Mrs. Coppage – 37,573 minutes (Top reader was Julia S), and Grade 5 – Mrs. Leon – 29,973 minutes (Top reader Zach F).

The children were invited to complete at least 15 reading activities throughout the month. Their names were placed in a box for each grade level. A drawing was held and one child from each grade level was chosen to be the winner of a \$10.00 gift card to *Barnes and Noble*. The children winning were: Kindergarten – Ian K; Grade 1 – Alyssa M, Grade 2 – Julie W; Grade 3 – Brooke M; Grade 4 – Marshall F; and Grade 5 – Jonathan C.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR CHILDREN!