

WILDCAT WATCH

Volume 2
September 30, 2009

Mr. Hunsinger's Wildcat Wisdom

Greetings everyone,

Can you believe we are just about through September? The students really are off to a wonderful start. I have every reason to believe 2009-10 will be another outstanding year here at HWES.

In October there will be many things taking place here at HWES. One of the biggest events will be the Wildcat Walk-a-Thon scheduled for the afternoon of October 14. Again this year the event will be scheduled by building; however, both walks will be behind the Wakefield building. The Wakefield building students will walk from 1:15 to 2:00 p.m., and the Homestead building students will walk from 2:15 to 3:00 p.m. This special event is the celebration of students and teachers working together with our outstanding PTA. All donations received will be used to support different activities and programs here at HWES. Please join us for the celebration and share the Wildcat Pride.

In a few weeks we will be sending out confirmation letters for the November conference times. We look forward to seeing everyone for these meetings scheduled for November 5.

I want to thank our guidance counselors, Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Wettlaufer, for hosting welcoming parties for our students in grade 1 - 5 who are new to our school. For these 72 boys and girls it was a really nice way to say, "Welcome, we are glad you are here with us!" Thanks to our PTA for helping fund this event.

We have received information that our Seasonal FluMist program in the elementary and middle schools has been suspended. You should have received a letter regarding this on Tuesday, September 29. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Harford County Health Department.

New Students Get a Wildcat Welcome

The school counselors hosted Welcome Parties on September 18th for the 72 students who are new to our school this year (first through fifth grades). Mr. Hunsinger, Mr. Laughlin and Mrs. Mack welcomed them, snacks were provided, games were played and every student received a water bottle donated by the PTA. Everyone had a great time!

Thank you to the PTA for the donations. Also, we appreciate Debbie Limpert, the teachers, custodial staff, cafeteria staff and the secretaries at both buildings for their support and cooperation with these fun events.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS AND FAMILIES TO HOMESTEAD-WAKEFIELD!

Brenna Sullivan and Cathy Wettlaufer

BJ's Wholesale Club has an offer for you (and HWES)! Join or renew at BJ's now and get:

1. \$10 off the \$45 Annual Membership Fee
2. an additional 3 Months of Membership
3. a second Membership Card for a household member, and
4. BJ's will donate \$5 of your Membership fee to Homestead/Wakefield Elem. School!

It doesn't matter when you last renewed, since BJ's will add 15 months to your current expiration date. This special offer is not valid online or at any BJ's Club location. Contact Eric Laughlin for a registration form via phone (638-4175) or email at eric.laughlin@hcps.org.

The **PTA Reflections** program has officially begun! All students at HWES, pre-K through 5th grade, are invited to participate! **PTA Reflections** is a national arts and achievement program in which students can enter their original works of art in 6 categories: film, dance, visual arts, musical composition, literature, and photography. Every student who enters will receive positive recognition for their efforts. Children will receive the official packet containing the entry form, program description, and rules. Check our HWES website for more

information. The deadline for submissions is October 20th, 2009. For more information, contact Kathy Baker-Brosh at kbakerbrosh@hotmail.com.

From the Art Department

A Reminder:

Art days can be messy. Smocks are provided in class, but accidents happen.

Keep this in mind when helping to dress your child on designated art days. (extra smock donations are always appreciated- adult size t-shirts- med. or large)

Also, GET READY! IT'S COMING! A whole lot of fabulous art created by your child. Think about a place now to carefully store the masterpieces for the future. How about a large plastic tote or a large paper portfolio for flat pieces. Maybe even frame and hang a few.

The first Countywide Artshow of this school year will begin on Sept. 25, with a special reception for the artists and their families on Oct. 10th. Congratulations to...Samuel Cotton, Rachel Ewers, Sofia Garcia, Lauren Betza, Hannah Wolf, and Cameron Burns representing Wakefield.

Art Room Wish List:

sturdy shoe boxes, metal flip tops from soda cans (used as hanging hooks), fold out road maps, clean styro meat trays (any size or color), frozen dinner plastic trays, wallpaper sample books, cardstock or assorted fancy papers.

Museum Update:

At The Walters:" Mummimania" Wed.,Thurs.,Fri.,Sat.,Sun., now through Nov. 8th, 2010, 10:00-5:00

At The BMA- "Edgar Allen Poe- A Baltimore Icon" Opens Oct. 4th, artists such as Gaugin and Manet; both admirers of Poe's intriguing stories. (either, fun Oct. adventures)

Also, The Native American Art Collection at The BMA: showcases Plains Indians beadwork, Arctic ivory, pottery and ceramics. (a nice and inspiring Nov. day trip)

From the Homestead Art Department:

The following students had their artwork selected to represent HWES at the Countywide Art show: Kayla Conklin and Beth Sapitowicz from Ms. Conley's fifth grade class; Kirsten McDonough from Ms. Hoch's fourth grade class; and Haley Sexton from Mrs. McCord's fourth grade class.



Congratulations to our award winning cafeteria staff here at HWES! The Department of Food & Nutrition Services was recently awarded the District of Excellence in School Nutrition by the School Nutrition Association on August 9, 2009. Currently, there are only 30 Districts of Excellence in the country. Harford County marks the 30th district – and only district in Maryland– on this distinguished list.

The District of Excellence distinction recognizes school districts which complete a thorough assessment in five key areas: administration, communications, marketing, nutrition/nutritional education, and operations. These areas make up the "Keys to Excellence" program. Keys to Excellence is a national best practice standards program and is the core of the School Nutrition Association's professional development and training programs. It allows for school districts to compare their food services program to industry gold standards and meet their goals to serve nutritious, tasty food in a cost-effective manner. We are very proud of their accomplishments. Extend your thanks and appreciation to them when you visit our school.

Reminder: Has your family been affected by the recent economical downturn? If your income has recently changed and/or you believe your household may be now be eligible for meals at a free or reduced price, submit a Meal Benefit Form today. Applications may be obtained and submitted anytime throughout the year to our school office or fax directly to Food & Nutrition Office @ 410 638-4201.

They Say It's Your Birthday...The Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School Media Centers would like to welcome the newest Birthday Book Club Members for the months of July and August. The following people had birthdays recently and their parents purchased books for the libraries in their honor. The books they selected display a special plate with their names on the inside cover. Happy Birthday and a big Birthday Book Club welcome to the following students:

Grade K: Kendall C

Grade 1: Kylie N, Michael P, Jacob S

Grade 2: Jenna B, Alexandra B, Joshua B, Stefan G

If your birthday is in September or October, NOW is your chance to join the Birthday Book Club. May will be the last Birthday Book Club of the 2009-10 school year. Ask your teacher or school librarians (Homestead Building: Mr. Robertson; Wakefield Building: Mrs. Miller) for an application today!