

WILDCAT WATCH

Volume 4
November 23, 2009

Mr. Hunsinger's Wildcat Wisdom

It is always a time to stop and catch our breath as we move past the first quarter and on to the second quarter of the school year. There is a lot to share as we reflect on the start of the school year and what took place during the start of the school year.

We really have gotten off to a wonderful start and the strong support between staff and parents was again quite evident. Our students are outstanding and really show the many things that make us proud when they are in as well as out of school. Our fifth graders and teachers spent a week at Harford Glen after which the staff there commented on how great our students are. When grades go on field trips, we hear about the wonderful students and teachers who took part from places such as the Baltimore Zoo, Baltimore Aquarium, and other destinations. We never forget that much of the funding from these trips comes from our outstanding PTA, where we always place children first. Even the photographers from Lifetouch studios say we are one of the best schools they visit and our students are always polite and courteous.

We had our November conferences and many comments were passed on to me regarding the time and effort our staff placed in their worthwhile meetings. We had many visitors for American Education Week. These three days were times to celebrate the good things going on with education here at HWES. As you can imagine it is a bit stressful for the faculty and staff; however, they always show why our school is so outstanding not just during the days of American Education Week, but everyday. Let's continue to work together as we do all possible for the children we serve.

I have to share some very sad information regarding a HWES first grade student. Dominic Osorio, a member of Mrs. Kamyszek's class, has passed away after an extended illness. Dominic was a wonderful boy and right up until the last day he attended our school he left lasting impression on all of us. He enjoyed school and had many friends. Often we take things for granted as we move ahead with the many busy things going on in our lives; however, when things like this occur we must all stop and reflect upon how a special child like Dominic affected us all. On behalf of the students and staff, we express our deepest sympathy to the Osorio family. We are all better people for having been able to share a brief, yet special time with a real hero named Dominic Osorio.

As has been the case in past years, we will have our annual Super Bowl pizza fundraiser. This is not a PTA fundraiser, rather a school fund raiser where in past years we purchased supplemental reading books for the different grade levels. This year the profits will go to the purchase of additional whiteboards for some of the classrooms. Specific information and fundraising forms will be sent home before winter break. Distribution will be on February 3 (the Wednesday prior to the Super Bowl).

Happy Thanksgiving from the faculty and staff of HWES!

Dates of Importance

Wednesday, November 25	Early Dismissal at 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 26	Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday, November 27	Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday, December 4	Winter Wonderland - Homestead Building 6 – 8 PM
Monday, December 7	Winter Concert, 5 th grade, BAHS, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, December 23	Close at 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 24	Close for Winter Break
Monday, January 4	Schools Reopen

From the Homestead Media Center:

Apologies to the following students who purchased books for the Birthday Book Club in the Homestead Building but whose names were left out of the previous issues of the Wildcat Watch.

August – Andrew S (4th grade) and Mary Kate B (5th grade)

September – Daniel W (5th grade) and Sarah D (4th grade)

October – Hannah R (3rd grade) and Alyssa N (5th grade)

Hope you all had wonderful birthdays and enjoyed the books you purchased for the library.

Music News

Just a reminder the HWES Winter Concert featuring our fabulous Fifth Grade Band, Orchestra and Chorus will be held on Monday, December 7, starting at 7pm. This year's concert will be held in the new Bel Air High School auditorium!

Fourth Grade Chorus is meeting weekly to prepare for our mini-musical "This Old Gingerbread House". This musical will be presented in late January. More info will be sent home soon.

All third grade students will begin recorders following the Winter Break. A letter will be sent home shortly explaining this fun program.

Student Council Canned Food Drive!

The student council is continuing its tradition of collecting non-perishable food items for the needy. Donations will be collected from now through Friday, December 4. Prizes go to the top 3 classes with the largest number of donations. All donations will be given to the Salvation Army to supply local families with food during the holiday season. Thanks for your support!