

# WILDCAT WATCH

Volume 6  
November 18, 2008

## Mr. Hunsinger's Wildcat Wisdom

We are about to celebrate a really wonderful holiday, Thanksgiving. This is the day when everyone comes together to give thanks and to reflect upon our many blessings. We have much for which to be thankful. The children who attend our school are special to all of us, and we will continue to work together as a school staff and parents to give the children all the love and support we can. Quite often we get so overwhelmed with all the negative things going on in the world today that we sometimes do not stop to reflect and celebrate on the many good things. As you gather around the table on Thanksgiving Day, please keep HWES in your thoughts and prayers. We have several students as well as staff members going through some really difficult times, and we must not forget them as they deal with health needs as well as family concerns.

As the Principal of this great school, there is never a day that goes by that I do not give thanks for the opportunity to be in this role. Yes, there is always a level of stress with this job, but there is also a level of excitement in being here. Remember that together we can continue to make a difference in the lives of the students here at HWES, and we will continue to do great things that will have a lasting effect on the children.

Happy Thanksgiving 2008!  
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As you know we had a strange and somewhat exciting day here at HWES on Friday, November 14. There was a problem with an electrical transformer outside the Wakefield building causing the students from the Kindergarten and Wakefield buildings to get off their buses at the Homestead building. Our students really adjusted well to the unusual day and the support and understanding of the parents was appreciated. HCPS was in charge throughout this event and jointly we decided not to have the buses take the children back home right after arriving due to the chance children could have been returning to an empty house. HCPS did an *Alert Now* call shortly after 9:00 a.m. and several of you came to pick up your children to return home. Those students who stayed throughout the day went home on the buses as they usually do. Having many of the students picked up during the day took the extra strain off the Homestead building and all went very smoothly. I understand the instructional process was not at the normal level, however, the entire staff did all they could to make the day as good as possible. I salute the entire staff for doing such a good job. If you had picked your students up or kept them home during the power outage, remember that they will be marked present for the entire day.  
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A few reminders and dates of importance -

On November 20 we will have picture makeup day. If you are requesting a retake for your child, make sure the picture packet is sent back with your child so the photographer will know what package to retake.

On November 20 we will have our Thanksgiving Dinner for the students and staff.

On November 26 we will close at 1:30 p.m. (Thanksgiving Eve). Make note this is one half hour later than our normal early dismissal time. There will be no afterschool YMCA program that afternoon.

On November 27th and 28th we will be closed for Thanksgiving

## MUSIC NOTES

On December 8 (Monday) at 7:00 p.m., we will have our Winter Concert in the Homestead Multipurpose Room. This is a **change** due to the fact Patterson Mill High School had to change their plans causing us to not have access to their auditorium. We will keep you

informed about our concert plans here on the 8th. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade band, orchestra and chorus are the performing groups for this concert.

On December 12 we will have our Winter Wonderland activities as planned by our PTA. It will be in the Homestead building and specific times and arrangements for this evening event will be passed on shortly.

**Reminder: Early Dismissal (1:00 p.m.) on Friday, November 21, for Elementary Teacher Planning Time.**

From the Homestead Art Department

A giant turkey has nested in the lobby of the Homestead building! Starting on Friday, November 14, through Thanksgiving, please join us in adding tail feathers to the turkey. This is a fundraiser for sick children at the Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital. One dollar for a large feather and fifty cents for a small feather can be purchased in the morning and at lunch. So please help children in need and buy a turkey tail feather indeed!

## **DAWS 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:

Joshua T  
Sarah G  
Colin D  
Jared H  
Timmy T

Stephanie S  
Jiyun P  
Connor F  
Chris C  
Will A

**Watch out!  
You never know when you will get a  
“Daw in the Hall”**

**Reminder from the Health Room:** The second dose of FluMist will be given on *Tuesday, December 9th*. If your child is less than nine years old, it is recommended that they receive a second dose of FluMist if this is the first time they have ever received any type of flu vaccine, or last year was the first year they received the flu vaccine and they did not receive the second dose. Please contact the school nurse with any questions.

### **HWES Student Council sponsored Canned Food Drive**

When: November 11 – 20

To support the Salvation Army’s food collection for those in need in our local community.

Please bring in your non-perishable food items to your classroom. You can make a difference!