

WILDCAT WATCH

Volume 7
December 4, 2008

Mr. Hunsinger's Wildcat Wisdom

I have a lot to share in this our first issue of the *Wildcat Watch* in December. Let me begin with some sad news regarding a former staff member's daughter. Mrs. Teresa DiPietro, daughter of former Physical Education Teacher at HWES Debbie Clark, died a short time after giving birth to her son Rocco DiPietro. Please keep Mrs. Clark and the DiPietro family in your thoughts and prayers as they move through this difficult time in their lives.

We have some students and staff currently going through some difficult times. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. A strong school family extends well past the walls that surround our buildings.

There are some other topics to be discussed at this time regarding what is taking place in and around our school community:

- Our Winter Concert by the fifth grade chorus, orchestra and band will be in the Homestead building multipurpose room on Monday, December 8, starting at 7:00 p.m. We regret having to change it from Patterson Mill; however, they had to postpone our concert due to a scheduling conflict they had within their school. We will try our best to accommodate everyone for this special event. Students performing in the concert should arrive at the school no later than 6:40 p.m.
- My son Keith will be heading back to the Persian Gulf for the third time in early January. There is a program that he is in charge of called READING UNITED. What it does is give men and women the chance to read stories to their children on tape, then give the books to their children so they can look at the books and hear their mother or father read the book to them. If you have any children's books that you no longer can use and if they are in good condition, we can collect them and send them to the USS New Orleans before the winter holidays. We will have boxes in the lobbies of each building where we will collect your books to be sent to the ships port in San Diego, California. The collection will be from December 8 – 12, and we will send them out on Monday, December 15.
Thank you.
- Thanks to County Executive David Craig for the grant we received here at HWES. The grant in the amount of \$9990 will be used for different projects here at our school. I want to thank Elizabeth Cotton and Kim Kellagher for all their efforts in the grant writing along with our PTA President, Christine McPherson. New lobby furniture for the Wakefield building as well as picnic tables and benches throughout our campus are some of the items provided through this grant.
- Remember our Winter Wonderland Celebration will be on Friday, December 12, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Homestead building. More information from the PTA will be sent out shortly with specifics.
- In early January, we will be sending order forms home for the annual Super Bowl pizza fundraiser. The profits are going to be used for the purchase of supplemental reading materials for the kindergarten classes. Delivery of the items ordered will be on January 28 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and can be picked up in the Homestead cafeteria.

Dates of Importance

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| December 8 | Winter Concert | Homestead Multipurpose Room – 7:00 p.m. |
| December 12 | Winter Wonderland | Homestead Building – 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. |
| December 23 | Early Dismissal | 1:00 p.m. |
| December 24 – January 4 | School Closed | Winter Break |
| January 5 | School Reopens After Winter Break | |

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 month of November. 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:

Kingergarten: Emily R

Grade 1: Tate D, Kevin E, Kristen E, Brenna P

Grade 2: Megan E, Ryan L

Grade 3: Grace F, Connor L, Bryce L, and Sarah Q

Grade 4: Kenny E, Elizabeth M

Grade 5: Noah C

If your birthday is in December, NOW is your chance to join the Birthday Book Club. May will be the last Birthday Book Club of the 2008-09 school year. Ask your teacher or school librarians (Homestead Building: Mrs. Walker; Wakefield Building: Mrs. Miller) for an application today!

Dear Parents of HWES Second Graders:

Each year, in music class, every child in the second grade studies the characteristics of ballet, along with a study of musical form. We base our study on Peter Tchaikovsky's ballet The Nutcracker and the eight musical selections in his Nutcracker Suite. Along with that study we focus on retelling the story through interpretive movement. As a culmination of the study, we perform our own version of The Nutcracker on stage, complete with costumes and scenery, and invite parents to join the audience of first and second graders. We ask that you not bring too many guests, as our gym will already be holding all second graders plus half of the first graders. This year's performances will be on Wednesday, December 17 and Friday, December 19. Your second grader should have brought home an "invitation" giving the date and time of the performance, along with their character and costuming instructions. Please do not buy special clothes unless your child needs that item anyway.

Performance Dates: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 – 9:30 AM
Ms. Panos, Mrs. Fannin, Mrs. Bernard

Friday, December 19, 2008 – 9:30 AM
Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Michael, Mrs. Allender, Mrs. Peregoy



Sincerely,

Mrs. Carolyn Harrison
And
Mrs. Paula Carey
Wakefield Primary Vocal Music

**Green Ideas from the Student Council Green Team
Carleigh W, Rachael H, Margo S, Taylor L, Donna N
and Beth S**

Season's Greetings wildcat families. We have recently come up with a few ideas for you and your family to celebrate the holidays in a "Green" way. We don't mean green like the Grinch, we mean green as in eco-friendly! Here are a few very simple child and family friendly ways in which to have yourself a green holiday!

- **Repaint old ornaments to create new ones**
- **Use your own artwork to wrap presents**
- **Use popcorn and cranberries to decorate around the house**
- **Use paper scraps to make holiday chains to decorate or have a holiday countdown**
- **Use old holiday cards to make new ones and /or gift tags**
- **Reuse old gift bags to wrap holiday treats**
- **Use old water bottles to create holiday snowmen**

Don't forget to turn your holiday lights off before you go to bed. You can even use a timer on them to help you save energy.

You can also pre-cycle by not buying Polly Pockets and Barbies which are gifts with a lot of packaging and are not good for the environment. The student council Green Team would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!

To all HWES families~

The student council is creating recycled snowmen this year at the Winter Wonderland celebration that will be held on December 12, from 6-8:30. We are in desperate need of Coffee Mate or International coffee creamer containers to make the snowmen. PLEASE send in your empty and rinsed creamer containers with the lid still attached by Friday December 12. The student council thanks you very much!