



WIZARDS PTA NEWS



The newsletter of the Woodlin Parent Teacher Association

MAY 2008

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everychild, onevoice

PRESIDENT'S CHAT

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a terrific month for the Woodlin PTA. The mid-April Book Fair was not only great fun, but also allowed us to provide \$30 in free books to every Woodlin teacher. Project Quality Time motivated some families to spend an afternoon at the art museum, and Walk Across Maryland is motivating many of us to get out and move a little bit more. Many Woodlin parents took time out of their regular routines to participate in PTA-organized Staff Appreciation activities. Thanks to PTA volunteers Alexis Ruffin, Elly Sullivan, Jodi Kanter, Katherine Rowell, Sydney Trent and Bruce See-

man for their work on these events.

The biggest event of the spring was our wonderful Spring Fair, held on Saturday, May 9. On top of all the things we love about the Spring Fair—the flower sale, the cake walk, the flea market, carnival-style games, moon bounces—this year's fair added even more! There were more inflatables, community information tables, more food options, a kids' fashion show, and a bike relay. The weather gave us a few tense moments in the



Linda Giannarelli our Super PTA President always flies to help Woodlin Elementary

morning, but the sunshine smiled on us in the end! It was a wonderful day to watch the kids have fun, talk to old friends, and meet new ones. There were families with kids from K through 5th, parents of older kids who came back just for the flower sale and conversation, and neighborhood families with preschoolers who already feel at home at Woodlin. Huge thanks to lead organizer Shelly Duckett and to all of the individuals who
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Spring Book Fair Shines

★ Brilliant stars shining together create a constellation and our many book fair stars clearly rivaled those in the spring night sky. Parents, teachers, faculty, staff and, importantly, our students came together to raise **\$1,900 for the PTA** and to fund **\$900 in books** that went directly into the hands of teachers and students.

With encouragement and

enthusiasm from Barbara Schweitzer, student teacher interns were part of our family night for the first time and were on hand talking with kids about stories and reading, while Mindy Rosenberg coordinated with the Parent Network to provide valuable information and resources for parents about summer learning strategies. Playful Diane Tencer's
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Woodlin Raises Money

Our **Winter Festival and Silent Auction** helps to fund our wonderful programs for our students, staff and parents. We netted **\$11,085!!** Thanks to all who made this possible.

Reading Fun for Everyone

We are trying to get a head start for next year to have trained parents to help Woodlin students with their reading and critical thinking. Once trained, parents can lead book discussion groups with advanced readers in grades three to five—over 50% of the Woodlin students in those grades—using the Junior Great Books materials (and possibly 2nd grade).

Woodlin's Jr. Great Books program is being supported by the school and the Woodlin PTA. It is led by parents like you

who are interested in expanding learning opportunities for our kids. The program takes place during regular school hours.

Training is currently offered in Rockville on the following dates:
July 10 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
August 7 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
September 23 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Parent volunteers must commit to lead **at least one** group session of the Jr. Great Books program at Woodlin, consisting of six weekly sessions, with each

session lasting approximately 45 minutes to one hour.

The registration cost for the training is \$139 per person, but the PTA will reimburse the costs for approximately the first four parents who register (although volunteers are welcome to make a donation to defray the costs).

If you would like to register for the training, or for more information, please contact Julie Kaplan at 301-495-3129 or jubekaplan@starpower.net.

—Julie Kaplan

Woodlin Raises More Money

Our dining out fundraiser at **Noodles & Company** raised **\$526!**

Thanks to Melilta Flannery for organizing a fun evening.

Woodliners Walking

We are pleased to announce that just four weeks into the eight-week Walk Across



Maryland Challenge each and every grade had walked across Maryland and back again—that's 600 miles. At this point, we are logging miles to see how many times each grade can make this trip across Maryland. So, please continue logging your miles for the remainder of the program. And, remember that it's never too late to start walking so that you can contribute to your grade level's team. The forms are

available on both the Woodlin website and the PTA website. Or, you can contact Katherine Rowell via e-mail at krowellss@aol.com and she will put a walking log in your child's take home folder at school. Check the poster outside of the All-Purpose Room to see the latest facts about how far each grade has walked. It's clear that the first grade is eating their Wheaties!

—Katherine Rowell

WOODLIN OUTDOOR THRIVES

Woodlin Outdoors also helped to oversee the installation of the new footbridge at Woodlin. It took many hands and lots of hard work. Many thanks to the following families for making that extra-special contribution toward the installation: Snyder, Rasicot-Daly, Rocha-Horwitz, Kaplan-Auerbach, Frtischler, Witt and Bild-Pinsky. Thanks for believing in making the outdoors more fun for our kids!

Gina Riazi, thank you for the recent donation to Woodlin of a dozen sapling-trees. Eight of these have been planted by the stream and footbridge and three will be planted by the black-top and field at the rear of the building.

Thank you for showing your commitment towards a Greener Woodlin and for signing up for weekly summer watering at Woodlin: Mrs. Grant/ 4th grade and the following families: Ruffin, Rocha-Horwitz, Silvestre-Borgstede, Savage, Wexler, Duckett.

Please email me at girhir@gmail.com if you are interested and able to commit to 1-2 weeks of watering the trees at Woodlin (mostly once or twice a week for an hour) this summer.

—Hira Girglani, PTA GreenKids Liaison

Spring Book Fair Shines

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creativity was in full display with a terrific character costume, Michelle Carter served as the evening's grand dame of hostesses covering all corners of the fair, and Brenda Athanas brought sound and show to our invited author presentation. On the front end of the fair, Deborah Grant, Robina Deloatch, and Avery Beeson were advisors extraordinaire in set-up display and selection. But the book fair success can best be credited to Mr. George who gives it a home and provides much needed nourishment of humor and goodwill! Heartfelt appreciation goes to the many parent and student volunteers.



*Best Happy Reading
Wishes to All!*



—Alexis Ruffin

Woodlin Raises Even More Money

**Congratulations Woodlin!
We earned \$738.62 at Giant.**

And \$366.65 at Safeway.

Total raised \$1105.27.

**I would also like to sincerely
thank all our 140 supporters
for using their bonus/club
cards when shopping! Great
job!!!**

Principal's Corner MAKING SUMMER LEARNING FUN!

Many of us have fond memories of school summer vacation. Long, lazy days filled with friends and play as well as memorable trips, adventures or camp experiences. There is value in the many opportunities that summer provides that support the development of well rounded students.

Research also shows that most students experience a "summer slide" that requires teachers to spend valuable time during the next school year helping students "remember" skills. A child's ability to succeed in school takes a partnership—one that begins at home and continues in school. Your children's teachers would like you to know that reading, math and science skills need exercise in the summer.

Here are some other ideas for you and your children to have a fun, stimulating summer.

- ◆Read. Let your child see you spend time reading, and make sure to set aside time each day for reading. Some parents attach an incentive to reading time: for every 30 minutes they read, they get another 30 minutes of TV time.

- ◆Visit the library often. Sign up for summer reading programs. Find the stacks of children's magazines and take some home for fun reading times.

- ◆Art Projects. Save up loose change and head to the craft store to find an inexpensive project to do together. It might involve counting and sorting, or mixing ingredients to make paint or clay.

- ◆Word games. Grocery stores and discount stores have inexpensive puzzle books with cross-words and word search puzzles. Sit down together and solve a puzzle!

- ◆Plan a vacation together. Visit the library or go online together to find out all you can about the place you plan to visit this summer. Read maps and guidebooks. List the places you want to see along the way. Plan a budget for the trip as well. A fifth- or sixth-grade child can even help calculate gas mileage every time you fill the tank!



Principal Sarah Sirgo

- ◆Make a scrapbook of photos and mementos of your summer trip. Have your child write out captions below each item.

- ◆Write a family newsletter and produce it on the computer.

- ◆Make cookies together. Have your child read the directions to you. Let him measure the ingredients. For a challenge, double the recipe and have him figure out the new measurements!

- ◆Make a list of regular summer jobs. Doing household chores provide important life skills and teach responsibility.

- ◆Plant a garden. If you don't have much room, plant a couple of flowers in pots. Give your child some responsibility for these growing plants, like watering and weeding.

- ◆Save up loose change and decide whether to get a hamster or goldfish. Have your children write up an agreement about taking care of the animal, cleaning its cage or tank, feeding, etc.

- ◆Find a summer school class nearby where your child can have fun AND focus on skills that need reinforcing.

- ◆Summer camps, church Bible schools and library reading clubs will teach valuable skills and lessons. Sign your child up!

- ◆Make every day educational. Children learn problem-solving, math, science, and vocabulary as they help with groceries, laundry and cooking.

- ◆Roadworthy car games

- ◆Car bingo: Create a car bingo card with words, shapes, colors, and items that children will likely see during a trip (stop signs, billboards, railroad signs, etc.) to reinforce reading skills, math, and sight words.

- ◆The number game: Look out the window and call out when you see one, two, three, or four of something, and so on.

- ◆The alphabet game: One person chooses the right side of the road, and the other chooses the left. Call out objects that you see in alphabetical order (you can use a sign only for one letter). The first person to get to the letter z wins.

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Girl Scout Troops Accepting New Girls for 2008-09

It's never too early to start thinking of plans for the next school year. Our five Woodlin Girl Scout troops at Woodlin are already accepting applications for new Girl Scouts. Membership in Girl Scouts is open to girls ages 5-17. Girls join for fun and friendship, but they also find out about building character and self-esteem and serving their communities — the core qualities of Girl Scouting. Woodlin Girl Scouts are divided into: Daisy Girl Scouts (ages 5-6 for kindergarteners and first grad-



ers); Brownie Girl Scouts (ages 6-8 and grades 2 and 3); and Junior Girl Scouts (ages 8-11 at grades 4 and 5).

Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis for girls new to Scouting. To sign your daughter up or find out more, please contact Caren Madsen@msn.com or call (301) 587-8128. If you e-mail, please include the following in your note: your name, your daughter's name and grade this school year. Use 'New Girl Scout' in the subject line. We hope to see you and your daughter in the Woodlin Girl Scout family this year.

—Caren Madsen

WE NEED YOU FOR THE JUNE PTA MEETING!



We need a parent to volunteer to supervise the gym at the PTA meeting on Tuesday, June 4. There are teens in the gym to organize and play with the children but we need a parent there to ensure safe practices. If you would like the gym to be open during the PTA meeting, please volunteer to help. Without a parent, we will not open the gym.

Please contact Dara Schrier at steven_schrier@hotmail.com or 301-565-3622. Thank you.

—Dara Schrier

Principal's Corner: Making Summer Learning Fun

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◆Capital game: Take note of each license plate you see, not by state but by state capital. The first to correctly identify ten state capitals wins.

◆Cow game: One person takes the right side of the road, the other takes the left. Keep count of all the cows you see. You earn one point for each cow. When you see a cemetery out of your side of the car, you lose all your points.

◆Animals galore: Decide on a number of points for each animal that you see (cow = 1 point, horse = 1 point, pig = 2 points, etc.). As you drive, add up the points. Play until one person gets ten points, or for a

set time.

◆Math with license plates: Use the numbers on license plates to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and number patterns and see just how creative kids can get!

◆We hope you have a summer full of exploration and learning!

Ideas selected from the following:

www.partnershipforlearning.org

www.scholastic.com

—Sarah Sirgo

President's Chat

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handled the different elements of the fair.

We also started planning for next year. At our May PTA meeting, we elected a terrific group of officers to lead the PTA for the 2008-2009 school year. They are: President—Lynne Yao, Vice President—Karen Sharp, Secretary—Sydney Trent, and Treasurer—Lois Trojan. Please give them your thanks (now) and your support (next year). The attendees at the May meeting also broke into small groups to talk about what we accomplished this year and what we want to accomplish next year. The incoming officers will be using that information as they plan for 2008-2009.

As we get very close to the end of the school year, a reminder for families "graduating" from Woodlin next month: Whatever school your child will attend next year needs your involvement just as much as Woodlin has needed it. If you have a 5th grader headed to Sligo, contact Sligo's PTSA president Karen Lee at jbrownklee@aol.com to see how your skills and interests can be put to use.

Remember to mark your calendar for the various end-of-year events: picnics, concerts, field day, maybe a Geo Bee—the dates depend on your child's grade and activities.

Finally, please join us for one last PTA meeting this year—on Tuesday, June 3. We'll conduct a little bit of business, but mostly we'll celebrate!

—Linda Giannarelli

SAVE THE DATE

Who: All 5th graders & 5th grade families

Woodlin teachers and staff

What: End of the year party!!!!

Where: Meadowbrook Park (aka Candy Cane)

When: June 12 from 2p-6p

Details coming soon.

Questions? Contact Kitty Owens at kowens@aft.org

Geography Bee Teams Ready for the Spotlight

The geography bees will be held in the All Purpose Room from 2:00-3:00 on Tuesday, May 27 for the third grade and Wednesday, May 28 for the fourth and fifth grade. Prepare to be impressed by the geography teams:



Bradshaw (3rd Grade)	Carter (3rd Grade)	Sage (3rd Grade)
Sam Donohue	Angel Ticas	Benjamin Auerbach
Gus Gonzalez	Auster Pittman	Julia Hammer
Mikaela Greenwald	Spencer Stingley	Peter Melinchok
Phallon Thompson	Grace Williams	Lucy Pasenelli
ALT - Jackson Byrne	ALT - Sophie Futrovsky	ALT - Nathaniel Story
ALT - Camille Torfs-Leibman	ALT - Sydney Sharp	ALT - Oscar Villatoro
Grant (4th Grade)	Wallace (4th Grade)	Beeson (4th Grade)
Mehar Cheema	Nicholas Chupka	Marcus Hibbeln
Schuyler Cross	Alexandra Melinchok	Evan Maclay
Doyeon Kim	Christina Rogelio	Dion Penflor
Brendan Witt	Kyle Shaffer	Bobby Radecki
ALT - Marta Lasota	ALT -Julissa Diaz-Villatoro	ALT - Hannah Bisk
ALT - Jeffrey Maclay	ALT - Shalaine Thomas	ALT - Eric Sodero
Barish (5th Grade)	Sage (5th Grade)	Jones (5th Grade)
Carly Gregerman	Ellena Erskine	Arnelle Johnson
Max Martin-Udry	Cullen Morris	Austin Mejia
Marcos Melendez	Jacob O'Hara	Gus O'Hara
Dina Pinsky	Riley Owens	Sorne-Sarwanh Phongwarinr
ALT - Ronald Ramsaran	ALT - Noah Gonzalez	ALT - Richard Marton
ALT - Griffin Rowell	ALT - Robert Williams	ALT - Leslie Olemba

Ms. Bradshaw's third grade class deserves special recognition for having the highest percentage of students completing their study packets. Their cooperative hard work won them a pizza party earlier this month. Great job everyone!

Parent volunteers are needed to act as scorekeepers, timekeepers, and Masters and Mistress of Ceremonies. So please consider helping out. Contact Brenda Mejia at 301-335-3798 or bmejia@worldbank.org if you would like to be a part of this exciting day!

SPRING FLOWER SALE SUCCESS

Thank you to Woodlin staff, parents and neighbors for supporting the PTA's flower sale at the Spring Fair. The PTA made about **\$1,800** in pre-order and day-of sales.

This year's organizers, Vickie Rocha and Michael Horowitz, would also like to give a big flower bouquet to thank our volunteers who were a huge help before and during the sale. Julie Rasicot, last year's organizer, and former Woodlin parent Kate Olson helped us with the mammoth task of sorting loads of baskets and flats into individual orders. Alice Witt, Jane Curtin and Carol Woodside helped customers during the sale.
—Vickie Rocha and Michael Horowitz



Woodlin Celebrates Earth Day: A Pictorial Essay

Woodlin observed Earth Day on Friday, April 16, 2008. The students enjoyed a day filled with fun activities and the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and learn about the environment.



These photographs highlight some of the learning fun that Woodlin students experienced on



Earth Day. Volunteers gave of their time to encourage hands-on learning.



WOODLIN JUNE PTA MEETING

When: Tuesday, June 3
Where: All Purpose Room
Time: Meeting 6:30-8:00
Pizza and refreshments served 6:00-6:30

This is our final PTA meeting of this school year. Come out and celebrate!

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