



WIZARDS PTA NEWS



The newsletter of the Woodlin Parent Teacher Association

DECEMBER 2007

President's Chat	1
Holiday Book Bazaar	1
Annual Silent Auction	2
Woodlin Election	
Day Bake Sale	2
Woodlin Parent Network	2
Principal's Corner	3
PTA Meeting	
Child Care	3
After School Clubs	4
Trick or Treat for UNICEF Results	4
Walking in a Woodlin WinterFest	5
Give and Learn!	5
Volunteers Needed for Skit Rehearsal	5
PTA Staff Appreciation	5
Coming Soon	
Curriculum Showcase	6
Send Snider's Receipts Now	6
Important Dates	6
Woodlin January PTA Meeting	6
PTA Job Openings	6

PTA
*Everychild,
onevoice*

PRESIDENT'S CHAT

At this time of year when many of us are giving and receiving gifts, here are some gifts you can give to Woodlin, now or any other time:

Give thank yous: Thank a staff member or a parent for something they've done, with a note or a smile.

Give a welcome: If you see a parent at school who you've never seen before, go say hello!

Give a ride: Offer another family a ride to a school event.

Give a nudge: Suggest to a childless neighbor or nearby relative that our school can always use volunteers.

These all may seem like little things, but the more we do them, the closer and stronger our school community becomes.

This is also the time of year that some families are considering whether to send a child to Woodlin or to a magnet program or private school for kindergarten. If you know a family like that,

please consider being an ambassador for Woodlin. You can answer questions about our school, direct them to the school and PTA websites, give them copies of some of our newsletters, and/or invite them to come up to school with you for an upcoming event.

Speaking of school events, the December Book Blizzard was a success despite the uncooperative weather, thanks to the efforts of Alexis Ruffin and many volunteers. By holding the winter book sale, we have (continued on page 2)

HOLIDAY BOOK BAZAAR

Though the weather outside was frightful,
the book bazaar was absolutely delightful!

Wednesday evening turned out to be quite cozy and festive with a core of terrific volunteers, some intrepid parents and students, and a particularly resolute author who braved the elements to join us.

Sibling teams from the Martons, Adamses, and Raytselis families made it a family affair, and trusty PTA President Linda Giannarelli was there from the opening bell to closing! Melita Flannery and Jane Curtain brought tasty treats

sampled from the Woodlin cookbook, with the cream cheese brownies being the hands down favorite both nights. Woodlin faculty Brenda Athanas, Lindsey Whyte, and Deborah Grant were terrific advisors in the set-up for both nights. Seeing them in action left no doubt that these are three women who love reading!

Thursday night brought with it the 5th Grade Holiday Chorale and another book bazaar crew. Dara Schrier and Carol Woodside lent their book fair know-how, Mary Press jumped right in, Nancy Nerad teamed with uber-cashier Richard Marton, Dina Pinsky served as

a 5th grade ambassador, and Brenda Mejia split time between enjoying her son's chorale delights and the book fair bustle. We welcomed three Woodlin alum—Stephen Marton, Reva Alpers, and Matthew Kaiser—as student volunteers: (The book fair is a terrific place to earn those student service learning credits, while visiting the old stomping ground!) Adams sisters, Alyssa and Elaine, stayed steady to the end with dad Scott to close up another successful book fair!

So how did the Book Bazaar help the Woodlin community? Even with the (continued on page 5)



Annual Silent Auction:

A Little Something For Everyone!

It is time to mark your calendars for the PTA's **Annual Silent Auction**! This year the Auction will be held Sunday, February 10, 2008. This fun event is part of Woodlin's popular Winter Festival. The Annual Silent Auction is a major fundraiser for the PTA, a great way to support your school, and a fun afternoon for the whole family. There will be hundreds of wonderful items to choose from donated from local businesses and Woodlin families. We need **your** help to make this event fun and successful!

The Auction team is looking for volunteers to assist on the day of the event and for folks willing to make follow-up calls to businesses from which we have solicited donations. Calls will begin after a kickoff meeting in January 2008. If you are interested in helping, contact Lisa T. Alton or Chris Rutledge at woodlin.auction@yahoo.com or call Lisa at 301-565-3134 or Chris at 301-585-9409. Start thinking now about goods, services, or events your family can donate, too!



PRESIDENT'S CHAT

(continued from page 1)

now earned more free books for our teachers at the spring book fair. Another recent event was Project Quality Time. The families that attended reported that both children and adults enjoyed their visit to the National Gallery of Art; if you missed it this time, there will be another PQT date in the spring.

When you get that new 2008 calendar, don't forget to mark it for two PTA events in the first half of January: the January PTA meeting on Thursday January 3rd (topic: Sligo Middle School); and the Woodlin Dance on Saturday, January 12th.

I hope your holidays are / were happy, warm, and bright. Happy New Year!



Woodlin Election Day Bake Sale



Mark your calendars for Feb 12th—Woodlin's Election Day Bake Sale. In the past, this has been very successful because the voters are always willing to purchase the goodies that our volunteers bake or purchase. Please plan to help for an hour that day, or to bring something for the bake sale. Questions? Contact Jane Rodgers-Warsaw at (301) 650-0070.

WOODLIN PARENT NETWORK

Do you lock horns with your children? Do you feel your relationship with your children leaves something to be desired? Do you get to the point with your children where you say to yourself—What do I do now?



Go from this

to this



Ease the stress of parenting and increase the joy in your household. The Woodlin Parent Network presents Positive Discipline. If you answered yes to any of these questions January 15, 2008 (6:00 to 8:00pm) is the day you can start turning things around! Woodlin Parent Network Program presents Positive Discipline. Learn strategies to help you ease the stress of parenting and increase the enjoyment.. Join us for a relaxing light dinner networking with other Woodlin parents.

This Program will be presented by The Woodlin Parent Network and Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health Systems. Please look for additional information coming home in your student's backpack.

Principal's Corner

Developing and Enhancing Motivation in Children

Having the self-confidence to know that one can solve a problem, make a decision, or increase their performance motivates the child to accept other new and challenging situations, which in turn leads to greater learning. Our goal is to support appropriately the development of motivation so that there is a proper foundation for optimal educational growth.

Difficulties arise when adults or others within the child's environment replace the internal reward system with one that depends upon outside forces to supply rewards (candy, money, excessive praise). In such situations, children may not develop feelings of self-worth, and will judge their own value by someone else's standards or by rewards. Your child should never need to ask, "Did I do well?", but should know and be confident in their own successes.

There are several strategies parents can use to help children remain more fully intrinsically motivated.

Allow children ample time when working to allow for persistence. When children are deeply involved with an activity, make sure that they can finish without interruption. Resist the natural urge to "help," and let the child know you



Principal Sarah Sirgo

believe they can apply effective effort to be successful.

Respond to children's needs in a consistent, predictable manner, but allow them to be as independent as possible. This does *NOT* mean ceding all control to your child. All children need clearly defined limits. Playtime, however, need not be structured and organized. Let your kid be a kid!

Provide many opportunities for children and adults to explore together and interact directly. It is important for both children and adults to be working together on an activity. This lets you observe, model, and encourage your child.

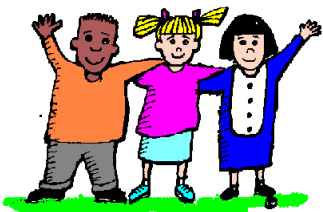
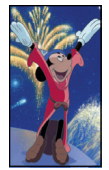
Provide situations that give children an acceptable challenge. Activities that are slightly difficult for the child will provide for stronger feelings of success when accomplished.

Give children opportunities to evaluate their own accomplishments. Rather than stating that you think they have done a good job, ask what they think of their work.

You'll never go wrong by asking the question, "What do *YOU* think?"

The world through a child's eyes is an awesome place. Allow children to explore and discover their world. Around every corner is an experience just waiting to surprise and excite young growing minds; all they need is a small amount of direction and a large amount of freedom. It is not necessary to praise and reward children for their own actions as they attempt to control their environment. The feelings of accomplishment they gain from results of those actions will be reward enough. Remember, the habits and attitudes toward learning that are formed in these early years set the mood for all future learning.

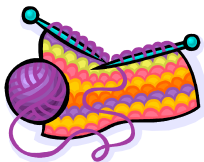
Excerpts from National Mental Health and Education Center



PTA MEETING CHILD CARE!



We still need a parent to volunteer to supervise the gym at each PTA meeting. 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 continue to be open during the PTA meetings, please volunteer to help. Without a parent, we will not open the gym. Please contact Dara Schrier at ste-



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

For Winter Session

STARTS

JANUARY 8, 2008--TUESDAYS

AND

JANUARY 10, 2008--THURSDAYS

WE'RE OFFERING SOME OF OUR OLD FAVORITES: CREATE ARTS, FENCING, and SPORTS and GAMES, WITH OUR SPECTACULAR MR. GEORGE;
and WE'RE OFFERING NEW and EXCITING CLUBS: CHEERLEADING, and LEARN TO KNIT and MAKE KAPS FOR KIDS, WITH OUR WONDERFUL MRS. SINGH!

YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB PACKET INCLUDING THE REGISTRATION FORM IN YOUR CHILD'S BACKPACK. PLEASE SIGN UP YOUR KIDS FOR A CLUB, AND ***HAND IN THE FORM WITH PAYMENT BY DECEMBER 20 IN THE PTA MAILBOX.***

THE AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS WILL BE GREAT FUN, AND THE BEST HOUR YOUR KID WILL SPEND!

QUESTIONS???

CONTACT ABBI LICHTENSTEIN: JAMS4@STARPOWER.NET 301-587-1871



Woodlin PTA Officers 2007-2008

President *Linda Giannarelli*

Vice President *Karen Sharp*

Secretary *Michelle Radecki*

Treasurer *Ramesh Kurup*

Trick or Treat for UNICEF Results

7,490 pennies, 1356 nickels, 1884 dimes and 1553 quarters were raised this year for UNICEF. Woodlin ghosts and goblins showed their heart on Halloween, collecting over \$1600 for children around the world. About 250 Wizards collected for UNICEF this year. For some kids, collecting money on Halloween wasn't enough! Shelly Duckett gathered several student volunteers to collect donations outside of Snider's before Halloween.



Thank you to all the kids who participated and the adults who helped them! A special thanks to Sue Martin-Udry the lead volunteer and organizer and fourth grade teacher Mrs. Grant (who also lent her name to the letters that went out in backpacks). With the help of kids and adults, hundreds of kids around the world will get help with what they

Walking in a Woodlin WinterFest



Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 10 from 2 -5 p.m. for the annual Woodlin Winter Festival. This fun event includes a used book and jewelry sale. If you are cleaning out closets, please

put aside any books, videos and jewelry to donate in February. We also have a terrific silent auction (see page 2) and many of our best donations are from Woodlin families. Anything from tickets to sporting events, vacation rentals, teaching someone a hobby, help to make this exciting event! The Woodlin Winter Festival is our largest fundraiser of the year. Look for further information in upcoming newsletters, the listserv and flyers. We hope to see everyone at this fun event!

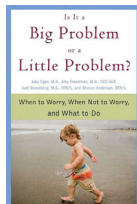


HOLIDAY BOOK BAZAAR

(continued from page 1)

weather, the PTA will see a nice fundraising infusion from the book bazaar to support special projects and scholarships, in addition to a total of \$150 in books to augment the Media Center's collection. Most valuable though is that in holding a winter fair, Scholastic will credit 10% of the spring fair sales in books back to the PTA. What this means is that by virtue of hosting the book bazaar, our teachers will be able to select books directly from the shelves at the spring book fair for their classrooms, which will benefit Woodlin students for years to come.

We are especially thankful to Woodlin parent and author Amy Egan, who came out Wednesday night to sign copies of her parenting book, *Is it a Big Problem?* Both authors featured for the winter book bazaar have agreed to join us at the April book fair, so stay tuned for more details later. A special thanks to lead volunteer Alexis Ruffin for organizing the book bazaar. In the meantime, Happy Reading!



GIVE AND LEARN! BECOME A JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS VOLUNTEER!

We need more parent volunteers to be trained to help kids with reading and critical thinking using Junior Great Books materials. Woodlin classrooms with their reading and critical thinking. Volunteers lead book discussion groups with advanced readers in grades 3-5-over 50% of the Woodlin students in those grades (and possibly 2nd grade).

Volunteers must attend a training session. The PTA will cover the costs for a limited number of parents (to defray costs, volunteers are welcome to make a donation). Training is offered in Rockville on January 17-18 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Although this is a two day workshop, parents have the option of just attending the first day. Parent volunteers must commit to lead at least one 6 week, 45 minutes to 1 hour session.



If you would like to attend the training, or have questions, please contact Julie Kaplan at 301-495-3129 or jubekaplan@starpower.net.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SKIT REHERSAL

Don't let the winter blahs get to you. We need a few volunteers to help rehearse children during lunch time for the Black History Committee skit. Come join us for fun and encourage Woodlin students. The skit is open to *all* students.

Contact Aisha.J.Burges@frb.gov for additional information. Look for more information on the listserv and at the January PTA meeting.

PTA STAFF APPRECIATION

The PTA Staff Appreciation subcommittee would like to extend a HUGE "thank you" to all who gave food, money and time to make the first staff birthday luncheon on Nov. 14 a success. We were stunned at how many people gave and how generously. A special thanks to those who prepared food: Didi Bild, Lynne Yao, Yael Traum, Gladys Solis, Mary Press, Jane Curtin, Julie Rasicot, Karen Lee, Christina Spiezo, Julie Savage, Julie Kaplan, Teresa Lamphear, Rosa Munquia, Dara Schrier, and anyone we may have missed. (We'll improve our form next time so that it's easier to keep track!)

And we'd like to give a special thanks to the following people who helped set up and clean up: Lena Browne, Kalyani Chadha, Mary Press, Julie Rasicot, Jane Rodgers-Warsaw and Julie Savage.

—Sydney Trent and Bruce Seeman, lead volunteers

COMING SOON:

Curriculum Showcase

Woodlin Curriculum Showcase will be held on Thursday, February 21, 2008, 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in homeroom classrooms. (Snow date is Thursday, February 28th.) This event is for children to demonstrate to their parents what they have been learning. All activities are planned for parents and their children to do together. During this time teachers will be present to coordinate the activities. They will not be available for conferences. We hope all Woodlin Families come to the Woodlin Curriculum Showcase. It is a great opportunity for parents to see their children shine!

Send Snider's Receipts Now!

This is a reminder to submit your 2007 Snider's Market receipts, as the end of the year is fast approaching. Preferably, submit the receipts on a regular basis so I can process them well before the deadline. After the end of January, the receipts for purchases in 2007 will not be accepted by Snider's; only the 2008 receipts will. Thank you. —Richard Harris

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday to	December 24-January 1	
Tuesday	Holiday Break—No School	
Thursday	January 3	PTA Meeting
Saturday	January 12	Woodlin Dance
Monday	January 21	MLK Jr. Holiday
Tuesday	January 22	Professional Day, No School
Tuesday	February 5	PTA Meeting
Sunday	February 10	Winter Festival & Auction
Tuesday	February 12	PTA Election Bake Sale
Monday	February 18	President's Day (No School)

New Night!! New Night!! New Night!!

WOODLIN JANUARY PTA MEETING

When: Thursday, January 5

Where: All Purpose Room

Time: Meeting 6:30-8:00

Pizza and refreshments served 6:00-6:30

TOPIC: Sligo Middle School

Meet and hear from Sligo Middle School Principal Jeff Rhodes and selected staff. Woodlin alum return and discuss their Sligo experiences. Fifth graders are encouraged to attend, and they will have time for a separate discussion with Sligo students.



Free child care too!

PTA JOB OPENINGS

Spanish translators: We need more people to occasionally do written Spanish translation (contact Karla Silvestre at silvestrekarla@yahoo.com or 301-326-7729)

Organized person who knows Excel: One person needed to maintain a spreadsheet of kids in after school clubs for the winter session, and print out lists as needed (contact Linda Giannarelli, lgiannar@ui.urban.org or 301-650-2475, please please please)

Art lover: Someone is needed to be the "point person" for the spring date for Project Quality Time (Saturday, April 12), to organize publicity & perhaps some sort of incentive for participation (contact Linda Giannarelli, lgiannar@ui.urban.org or 301-650-2475)

People who like to have fun: Volunteers will be needed for the winter festival in February. Watch for listserv postings.

Someone who likes to have fun AND likes to plan things: One person has expressed interest in helping to coordinate the Spring Fair (Saturday, May 10), but she needs a co-coordinator. Contact any board member, or contact Abbi Lichtenstein or Jodi Kanter to discuss more about the job.

Someone who loves books: Someone needed to help with the spring Book Fair. Contact Alexis Ruffin, alruffin@aamc.org.