



WIZARDS PTA NEWS

Woodlin Elementary Parent Teacher Association Newsletter June 2009

Volume 2, Issue 11 Woodlin PTA News

PRESIDENT'S CHAT

I hope you enjoy this last installment of the Woodlin PTA newsletter. It has been my privilege to serve as the PTA President for the past year, and I appreciate all the support I have received from so many Woodlin parents and friends. I am pleased to have passed on my responsibilities to the new Woodlin PTA President, Chris Rutledge. Under Chris' leadership, I am confident that the PTA will continue to move forward in all of its missions, and most importantly, to help enrich the lives of all of our children. His partners in this endeavor, the other new PTA officers, include Diana Arrington as Vice-President, Michael

Horowitz as Treasurer, and Evita Smedley as Secretary. All of the new officers were installed at the last PTA meeting of the year that took place on June 2. Additionally, the PTA Executive Board will include six committee chairs that were also introduced at the last PTA meeting: Karen Sharp and Karla Silvestre, Co-chairs of the Outreach Committee; Yvette Harris, Events Committee Chair; Abbi Lichtenstein, Enrichment Committee Chair; Sheila Maith, Membership Committee Chair; Lisa Alton, Fundrais-



President Lynne Yao

ing Committee Chair; and Ramesh Kurup, Health and Safety Committee Chair. Thanks to all of you for taking on these important positions within our PTA. If you are interested in volunteering with this great group of parents, please contact any of the new officers at our PTA website:

www.woodlinpta.org. There are too many parents and friends of the PTA to thank individually in this newsletter. However, I want take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Woodlin PTA newsletter; Pat Price, Editor-In-Chief, and Deb Ferrin, Copying and Distribution; for their (continued on page 2)

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GEOGRAPHY BEE—AND THE WINNER IS . . .

Woodlin's 8th Annual Geography Bee competition was held last month, and our students impressed their teachers, parents, and classmates with their knowledge, confidence and team spirit. The winning teams this year were: **3rd Grade—Mrs. Carter's class, The "Geographical Teemust"** (Latin!) The team members were Benjamin Abramson, Elaine Adams, Perry Beamer, and Cameron Trail. The alternates were Laila Haddad and John Spiezio. Unprecedented at Woodlin, the 4th Grade ended in a tiebreaker after 12 rounds! **4th Grade—Mrs.**

Beeson's Geo Jets and Mrs. Wallace's White Tigers:
Ms. Beeson's Team: The team members were Benjamin Auerbach, Jackson Byrne, Mikaela Greenwald, and Monica Hernandez. The alternates were Sam Cohen and Muna Khedir.
Mrs. Wallace's Team: Team members were Raie De-balkew, Gus Gonzalez, Sophie Futrovsky, and Camille Torfs-Leibman. The alternates were Peter Melinchok and Phillipos Sourvinos.
5th Grade—Mr. Sage's EurAfrAsias

The team members were Hannah Bisk, Helen Edge, Evan Maclay, and Alexandra Melinchok. The alternates were Max Dunn and Marta Lasota. Congratulations to ALL the students participants—as team members, alternates, making up names and cheers, and helping their classmates study. A special thanks goes to Rodney Thomas, Amrita Cheema, and Eric Madsen for their talents at the microphone and asking the questions for the Bee. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped in the finals with score- and time-keeping,

decorating and setting up: Lynne Yao, Michelle Radecki, Carol Woodside, Christina Spiezio, Sharon Bisk, Jennifer Pasenelli, Alexis Ruffin, Yael Traum, and to our distinguished judges, Mrs. Schwietzer and Mrs. Tencer. Thanks also to Ms. Stephens and Mrs. Athanas for all their help with this program throughout the year, and also to Ms. Sirgo and Mr. Clarke for their support and coordination. This program wouldn't happen without them. —Alicia Witt and Lisa Walker, Geography Bee Coordinators

Parent Network's Great Year

With the school year rapidly drawing to a close, I would like to thank the Woodlin Parent Network Committee for their hard work and commitment in planning and implementing the programs we had this year. The committee included parents and teachers: Patty Boyle, Michele Carter, June Watson, Georgia Kalargyros, Karen Sharpe, Sabrina Thomas, Dianne Tencer, Athena Wallace, Vanessa Wilson, Yvonne Moore, Yvette Moore Harris, and Cathy Zajac. We sponsored three programs this year, a fall and spring Dining with Dads, Reading with Relatives Day in the spring, and we co-sponsored, along with PTA, Family Game Night in the winter. All were well attended and well received based on the evaluations. Our students were happy and excited to have the opportunity to interact with so many parents and share some of their school experiences with them.

We look forward to repeating some of these programs next year and also developing some new ones which will welcome parents into the building to support our children as only parents can. If you would like to be part of the committee, please contact me by phone at 301-650-6440 or via e-mail at mindy_rosenberg@mcpsmd.org. Have a wonderful and relaxing summer with your terrific children.

—Mindy Rosenberg,
Counselor

Last Call for PTA Reimbursement!

We thank all the volunteers who have given their time and effort to help Woodlin. We want to make sure that you are reimbursed for the expenses previously approved by one of the PTA committee chairpersons. Please submit your receipts attached to the PTA reimbursement form (with the PTA chairperson's signature) as soon as possible, but not later than June 15th. You can send the form into school with your child addressed to "PTA Treasurer" or place it in the PTA Treasurer's box in the school mail-room. The reimbursement form is on the PTA website under "Money Matters" or you can e-mail Treasurer@woodlinpta.org to request a copy. You can also contact your committee chairperson for a paper copy.

—Lois Trojan, PTA Treasurer

Dining with Dads Photos



President's Chat

(continued from page 1)
service this year. Our newsletter continues to be a wonderful resource for Woodlin families. Pat, your "gentle, but persistent" reminders were appreciated, and I thank you on behalf of all the Woodlin families for your efforts in creating such a high quality newsletter. Another unsung hero of our PTA is Jane Curtin, the webmaster for the Woodlin PTA website. Jane has maintained an accurate, up-to-date, and informative site that surpasses the quality of most of the other Montgomery County PTA websites, if not most professional websites. Thank you, Jane! Lastly, I want to thank the other officers and board members of the PTA this year. Your leadership and hard work have made the Woodlin PTA one of the most productive and effective PTA groups in the county.

Finally, I want to wish all Woodlin families, a safe, healthy, and happy summer. And, to all the families whose children are moving on to new schools, remember that you and your children will always be welcomed at any future Woodlin PTA events. Once a wizard, always a wizard!

All the best,

—Lynne Yao

ROOM PARENTS —THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of the moms and dads who volunteered to be room parents this year. You did a great job! I hope you enjoyed the experience.

Thank you again. Have a wonderful summer!

—Mary Press,
Room Parent Coordinator

Profits Bloom at Flower Sale

In spite of the bleak economy, the Woodlin PTA's annual plant sale at the Spring Fair was a success.

This year's wet spring resulted in a bountiful array of wave petunias, dahlias, impatiens and other species from the greenhouse, Walnut Springs Nursery, located in Howard County.

Finally, we would like to thank the following current and former Woodlin parents for helping us before and during the sale: Krista Middlebrooks; Monica Feit; former Woodlin parent Laura Haggman; Martha Kyrrilidou; Susan Morawetz; Sydney Trent; Alice Stephens; Hira Girglani; Alice Witt; and Carol Woodside.

And thanks again to all of the sale's supporters. See you next year!

—*Vickie Rocha and Michael Horowitz,*
Plant Sale Coordinators

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Making Summer Learning Fun



Principal Sarah Sirgo

In her article, "The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement," Dr. Beth Miller's extensive research has shown that significant learning loss takes place during summer breaks and other away-from-school time periods. Recent research shows that summer learning loss equaled at least one month of instruction. This is especially true for vulnerable mathematical computation skills and skills related to reading and writing, such as spelling. In addition, children who speak a language at home other than English, experience a setback in their English language skills without practice during school breaks. In order to prevent and slow this learning loss, students must have access to grade appropriate activities and practice materials during their away-from-school time.

Summer deserves attention because, when the season begins, learning ends for many children. More importantly, the summer months represent a unique slice of time, when children can learn and develop in myriad ways that will help them in school and far beyond. Summer learning is not

just about retaining information; it is about problem-solving, analyzing and synthesizing information, generating new ideas, working in teams, learning to be with all kinds of people . . . these are the 21st century skills we aim to develop in all of our students!

We have worked incredibly hard to get our children to on and above grade level standards just as families have worked to develop positive social, academic, and personal skills at home. During the summer break in school, it is critical that students complete the school reading and math packets. Please help us to minimize the loss of learning in the summer so that we can push ahead and keep kids moving this fall! Packets will be distributed next week and also placed on our school website.

Thank you and have a great summer!

Summer Learning Loss: The Problem and Some Solutions, Cooper, Harris (May 2003), from The Clearinghouse on Early Education and Parenting (CEEP), <http://ceep.crc.uluc.edu>.

—Sarah Sirgo

THE PTA WANTS YOU!

The PTA is still looking to fill some important jobs for next year, including:

Silent Auction Co-Coordinator—Help plan, organize, and run one of our biggest fundraisers.

FLES Coordinator—Coordinate the after-school French and Spanish-language club programs, including registration and class assignments; and notify parents of schedule changes. If your child has benefitted from FLES, please consider taking on this role. If interested, please contact Abbi Lichtenstein at 301-587-1817 or jams4@starpower.net.

International Night Coordinator—Coordinate this fun community building event. We need two people to work on this program.

Newsletter Writer/Editor—We have someone who will design and lay it out, but we need someone to solicit stories, write copy, and edit.

School Spirit Coordinator—Coordinate the sale of T-shirts, magnets, and cookbooks. Sponsor an art contest to choose the design for Woodlin new T-shirts.

Election Day Bake Sale Coordinator—

Coordinate this easy fundraiser held once a year on Election Day.

Volunteer Coordinator—Help find volunteers for teachers and staff. Gather volunteer forms and provide lists of volunteers (from those forms) for special events. Maintain logbook and keep track of volunteer hours. This job is working with staff, not finding volunteers for PTA events.

Check the website for a full list of available jobs. The necessary time commitments for these roles vary greatly and almost none of them require that you attend PTA meetings regularly—unless you want to! We would love to involve some new people to bring in fresh ideas and energy, so please feel free to contact Lisa Alton at lisa@altoncreative.com, Ely Sullivan at sullivan61@verizon.net, or Karen Sharp at kdsharp334@hotmail.com to discuss taking on one of these interesting, fun, and important roles. Thanks!

—Lisa Alton,
PTA Nominating Committee

Editor's Thanks

As I turn the reins of newsletter to April Osajima and an editor (It's a terrific opportunity and can be completely done at home.), it has been an honor to steward the PTA newsletter the last two years.

This newsletter would not have been possible without the generosity of those who sent articles, provided advice, and gave encouraging words.

I offer special acknowledgements to the following: Deb Ferrin for all the photocopying—especially with a temperamental photocopier—and distribution; the Editorial Staff, Sharon Bisk, Carol Woodside, with special thanks to Heather Lair and Alice Stephens for excellence in copyediting; the office staff, Mrs. Hale and Ms. Bacon; Ms. Sirgo and Mr. Clarke; Jane Curtin for posting the newsletter to the website so quickly, Tiwana Jones and especially Melita Flannery for terrific photos helping to make the newsletter appealing, and the PTA Board—with special thanks to Laurie McWright, Yvette Harris, Shelly Duckett, Lynne Yao, and Karen Sharp. Of course, special thanks to my husband and son.

—Pat Price for the Wizards PTA News

Q & A with Brenda Athanas

Brenda Athanas is someone you've probably seen at Woodlin and in the neighborhood. Let's discover a little about this Woodlin treasure.



1. What is your job at Woodlin and how long have you been a member of the Woodlin family?

This will be my seventh year as Media Assistant. Prior to my current position, I was a kindergarten Paraeducator with Mrs. Rosenberg and also had lunch and recess duty. I have been a member of the Woodlin family since 1990 as a parent volunteer, but became a staff member in 1995.

2. What PTA activities have you worked with?

I was the After School Club Coordinator for seven years and have taught several after school clubs. I set up equipment for PTA meetings and night activities along with participating in the Winter and Spring Fairs.

3. What's the best thing about being at Woodlin?

I love the staff. I have known several of them for many a year, and I consider them part of my family. A couple of the teachers had my children in their classes and have seen them grow to be adults. My children are now 23 and 18 years old.

4. What would people be surprised to learn about you?

I was born in Hawaii when it was still a territory (oh no, now you know how old I am) and have lived in this neighborhood since 1968.

5. When you're not at Woodlin what do you enjoy doing?

I love to garden, build dollhouses, read while sitting on the beach, take walks, spend time with family and friends.

6. Anything else you'd like to add?

When my husband and I retire, we want to live in a log cabin between the mountains and ocean in North Carolina.

SIT BACK, RELAX, AND RAISE MONEY!

Yes, you can fundraise for Woodlin all summer long! Here are a few easy ways to help:

- ◆ Save all your 2009 Snider's receipts.
- ◆ Cut out the School Box Tops on Kleenex boxes, cereal boxes and other products.
- ◆ Registered your Giant and Safeway cards to Woodlin. You have to renew each year.
- ◆ Use www.boxtops4education.com or www.schoolpop.com when shopping on-line. Part of your purchase can benefit Woodlin.
- ◆ Spread the news to your friends and relatives. Ask them to save their Box Tops and/or Snider's receipts during the summer, and you can collect them before school starts. Also gets your friends and relatives to register their Giant and Safeway cards for Woodlin.

Additional Spring Fair Thanks

An extra special thanks to the following people for their assistance at the Spring Fair: Ron McRae, Ron McRae, Jr., Charlotte Anderson, Ms. Rosenberg, Mr. Rhodes and Ms. White of Sligo Middle School, and the students who assisted from Sligo Middle School and Einstein High School.

—Shelly Duckett, Spring Fair, Coordinator

GREEN TIPS

Keep the lights off at home until you need them. Enjoy the sunlight. Embrace the outdoors and walk or bike to your local park instead of driving. Remember to recycle and reuse when you're on vacations. Enjoy the summer!

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Field Day

Pictorial Essay

Another year of two great days for Field Day under the direction of our Physical Education teacher, Mr. George. Students, teachers, staff, and parents had a great time!

