



# WIZARDS PTA NEWS

Woodlin Elementary Parent Teacher Association Newsletter March 2009

Volume 2, Issue 8

## PRESIDENT'S CHAT

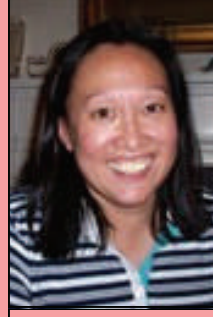
Dear Woodlin families:  
I can hardly believe that it is already March. This month will be an important month academically for our children. The Maryland State Assessment tests will be administered to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students during the last 2 weeks of March. Please make sure that your child(ren) is/are present for the testing days, and that each child has a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast. Of course, if your child is ill, don't send him or her to school. There will be makeup days for each grade level.

To lighten up things during this month of testing, the March PTA meeting featured a game night. We had a won-

derful turnout and families enjoyed a great night of fun. We welcomed Woodlin's student teachers to the meeting, and they joined in the fun as well.

Thanks to Mrs. Rosenberg and Karen Sharp for planning this stress-free event.

Speaking of stress-free and fun events, check out our next dining out night. This is the Woodlin PTA's first Parents Night Out! Come to the Adega Wine Cellars and Café on Fenton St. in downtown Silver Spring on Saturday, March 14 from 6-11 PM. Adega will do-



President Lynne Yao

nate 15% of all sales (eat in, take out, and bottle/case wine sales) to Woodlin. And, if you don't have a babysitter, don't worry! We are offering a Kid's Night Out that will run from 6:30-9:00 the same night, just down the street at Color Me Mine.

For only \$30, your child will enjoy a night of pottery painting, and a pizza dinner while you dine at Adega, and Color Me Mine will donate \$5 to Woodlin. Contact Color Me Mine to reserve a spot for your child, and then join the fun at Adega.

I also want to mention a great event we are planning for our dedicated Woodlin staff: the Spring Staff Ap- (continued on page 2)

### Table of Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| President's Chat   | 1 |
| Dining Out Family Fun                                      | 1 |
| It's Bloomin' Time to Order Flowers                        | 2 |
| Honoring Our Own: Woodlin's Staff                          | 2 |
| 5th Grade Bake Sale Success!                               | 2 |
| Next PTA Meeting   | 2 |
| Principal's Corner   | 3 |
| A Penny Given Is More than A Penny Earned                  | 4 |
| Book Fair Is Coming  | 4 |
| Awakening Beauty: Earth Day at Woodlin                     | 4 |
| Parent Resource Center                                     | 5 |
| Geography Bee Program In Full Swing                        | 5 |
| Green Tips   | 5 |
| Spring Break—Don't Take A Reading Break, Read, Read, Read! | 5 |
| March Is Women's History Month                             | 5 |
| Woodlin's Winter Festival                                  | 6 |
| Easy Fundraising   | 6 |
| Save The Date  | 6 |
| Black History Month Wrap Up                                | 6 |
| Spring Fair  | 7 |
| Study Circle Update: Keeping Woodliners Informed           | 8 |
| Important School Dates                                     | 8 |
| Applause, Applause, Applause!                              | 8 |

## DINING OUT FAMILY FUN!

Our first Parents' Night Out fundraising event will be held on Saturday, March 14 at Adega Wine Cellars & Café on Fenton Street in Downtown Silver Spring.

Woodlin's times is from 5-11 PM, and 15% of all sales (eat in and take out, as well as bottles and cases of wine!) will benefit Woodlin Elementary School.

Their food is really delicious. I love their Ahi Tuna salad and their fried calamari is outstanding! Check out

their delectable food at [www.adekawinecellars.com](http://www.adekawinecellars.com).

Want to go, but don't have a babysitter? No problem! You can drop off your kids at Color Me Mine from 6:30-9 PM for Kids' Night Out also to benefit Woodlin! Here are the details:

\$30 per participant. Price includes pizza diner, clay craft (likely a bird), making ice cream sundae or cupcake decorating for dessert.

Ages 6-11, younger siblings 4 or older okay.

Preregistration is required, 12 participant minimum. Please contact Color Me Mine to sign up at 301-565-5105 and be sure to mention Woodlin! Our school will receive \$5 for each participant.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions via e-mail at [lcyanowski@hotmail.com](mailto:lcyanowski@hotmail.com). Hope to see you there!

—Laurie Yankowski  
Dining Out Coordinator



## It's Bloomin' Time to Order Flowers

By now, you should have received an order form for the annual PTA flower sale in your child's backpack. If you didn't receive one or need another form, go to the PTA website, [www.woodlinpta.org](http://www.woodlinpta.org).

Orders are due **Friday, March 27**. Send your order and check (made payable to Woodlin PTA) with your child or place it in the box in the copy room at school.



Please add 6 percent sales tax (we've included a tax chart); also, we are **not accepting cash** for orders over \$10.

New this year: volume discounts for specialty annuals and a new species of hanging basket, bidens.

Some hanging baskets and annuals will be available for sale during the Spring Fair, which will be Saturday, May 9. But we suggest that you place your orders early to get the selections you want—and to get a slight discount on hanging baskets.

Any questions? Call this year's flower sale coordinators, Michael Horowitz and Vickie Rocha, 301-588-6078, [horocha@msn.com](mailto:horocha@msn.com).

—*Vickie Rocha*,  
Flower Sale Coordinator



## President's Chat

(continued from page 1)  
preciation Birthday Luncheon will take place on Thursday, March 19th. Please send in your donations (side dishes, desserts, or money) to Jeannette O'Connor. Let's give our teachers and staff a great spring birthday celebration to honor their hard work and dedication.

Although the year is far from over, I want to let you know that we are beginning our search for new PTA volunteers for the 2009-2010 school year. We are currently forming a nominating committee that will search high and low for great parent volunteers to fill important PTA Board and Lead Volunteer positions. If you are interested in any of the PTA positions, or would like to help with the nominating committee, please contact me.

Finally, preparations are underway for several events upcoming in April and May, including the Book Fair (April 23-24), Spring Fair (May 9), and Asian Pacific Heritage Month (May). Mark your calendars now, and if you're interested in volunteering for any of these events please contact me or any of the PTA Board members.

Have a great month,

—*Lynne Yao*

## Honoring Our Own: Woodlin's Staff

Woodlin will honor Montgomery County's finest—the staff of Woodlin at the Staff Birthday Luncheon on March 19 at 11:20 AM in the Staff Lounge.

A birthday cake will be provided for dessert, and we will order barbecue as well.

You may contribute green salads, fruit salads, desserts and/or a monetary donation. If you are donating food, mark your container with your name. and bring to the Staff Lounge by 10:15 AM on March 19. If you have not received

a flyer, please download one from the PTA website [woodlinpta.org](http://woodlinpta.org) and return in your child's backpack as soon as possible. Mark your envelope PTA Staff Appreciation.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Jeannette O'Connor at 301-588-1947 or via e-mail [Jeannetteroc@gmail.com](mailto:Jeannetteroc@gmail.com).

Let's show our staff how much we appreciate their hard work!  
—*Jeanette O'Connor*  
Staff Appreciation Coordinator

## 5TH GRADE BAKE SALE SUCCESS!

During the Winter Festival the 5<sup>th</sup> grade held a bake sale that was wonderfully successful! They were sold out! It would not have been possible without the help (See Applause! Applause! Applause! Page 6 for thank you.) from those who volunteered, baked, and donated.

—*Mary Press, Volunteer Coordinator*

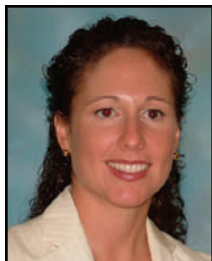
**Next PTA Meeting**  
**Date: Tuesday,**  
**April 14**  
**Time: 6:00, Pizza**  
**6:30, Meeting**  
**Place: Woodlin**  
**All Purpose Room**

# PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

## Testing at Montgomery County Public Schools

Regular, consistent monitoring of student progress is an essential element of effective instruction. While we spend the majority of our time with students engaged in the teaching-learning cycle, we regularly collect and analyze data in order to answer the following four critical questions:

What do we want our students to know



Principal Sarah Sirgo

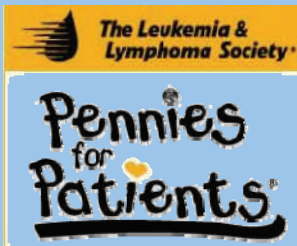
and be able to do?  
 (Curriculum and Instruction)  
 How will we know that they have learned it?  
 (Assessment)  
 What will we do if they haven't? (Intervention)  
 What will we do when

they already know it? (Rigor)  
 The ability to effectively gather data is facilitated by informal and formal testing. We recognize that the plethora of tests can be difficult to navigate. Below is some key information to help you find your way. If you have questions about any of the tests listed below, please contact us at school.  
 —Sarah Sirgo

| Origin of Test  | What   | Grade Levels | When  | Results Reported to Parents | Purpose  |
|---|--|--------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Local School<br><i>Standard assessments given at all schools in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)</i>                   | Math Unit Tests  | K-5          | 4-6 times per year (at the end of each math unit) |                             | Measure curriculum mastery   |
| Same as above   | mClass<br><i>(Primary Reading Assessment)</i>  | K, 1, 2      | 3x per year (September, January, May)             | Upon request                | Benchmark student reading levels   |
| Same as above   | MAP-R<br><i>(Measures of Academic Progress in Reading)</i>   | 3, 4, 5      | 3x per year (September, January, May)             | Upon request                | Benchmark student reading levels   |
| Same as above   | Global Screening   | 2            | February/March                                    |                             | Identify students who have academic potential and should be labeled as Gifted and Talented   |
| Same as above   | Terra Nova 2 (TN2)   | 2            | April   |                             | Measurement of student skills in reading, language, and math as compared to all other grade 2 students in MCPS                                       |
| State<br><i>Assessments that are standardized and published by an outside vendor. Administered at all schools in Maryland</i> | Maryland School Assessment (MSA)<br><i>(There is an Alternate and Modified version of this test for select students with special education learning needs)</i> | 3, 4, 5      | March   |                             | Determine student mastery of the voluntary state curriculum and measure school effectiveness for No Child Left Behind (NCLB).                        |
| Same as above   | Language Assessment Scales (LAS Links)   | K-5          | Fall/Spring                                       |                             | To evaluate the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills of students for who English is a second language in order to meet NCLB requirements |

## A Penny Given is More Than A Penny Earned

The Student Council at Woodlin will raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society from March 2-20 through the Pennies for Patients program. The monies raised will be donated to help local families with blood cancer patients and



blood cancer research. Our goal is to raise \$500. So please dig deep into those couch cushions and send in your pennies (and other change)! A letter will be sent home with each child for more information.

—Teresa Stephens,  
Media Specialist,  
Student Council Advisor

## Awakening Beauty: Earth Day at Woodlin

Yes, Spring is almost in sight with March here. Woodliners will be thrilled to be outside beautifying our landscape on Earth Day, April 22.

We have planned Earth Day celebrations in conjunction with GreenKids. Children from all grade levels will help plant various shrubs and plants near the new and improved woodlot at Woodlin.

Gina Riaz, GreenKids dedicated naturalist for Woodlin, will be onsite and leading the planting activity along with parent volunteers. Also, Riaz will be attending the Monday morning town hall assembly at Woodlin as guest speaker for Earth Day.

We know you will want to make this a family affair. Volunteer on Monday, April 21 to help dig and prepare the

grounds for the planting activity scheduled for Tuesday, April 22. Volunteers are also needed on April 22nd.

You can volunteer any time between 9-2 for a half hour, hour or longer slots of time. We need you to make this a fabulously fun event for all!

This will be out last activity with the GreenKids program; Woodlin graduates from this program at the end of this school year. Join us and make this community event a success!

Please e-mail Hira Girglani: at girhir@gmail.com indicating available time and date. We need you to help make this Earth Day celebration a success!

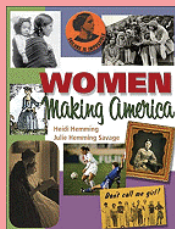
—Hira Girglani  
GreenKids Coordinator



## BOOK FAIR IS COMING

Mark your calendar, The Book Fair is scheduled for Thursday April 23 and Friday April 24. Our family event will be Thursday night and feature special teacher activities

(Students should ask their teachers and Mrs. Sirgo). There will be a signing/reading by Woodlin



## Parent Resource Center

March is **National Nutrition Month**. Encourage your family to eat more fruits and vegetables. Help your children to make healthy choices and invite them to help you choose the food and make the meals.

March is also **National Kidney Month**. A few tips for keeping kidneys healthy are exercise regularly, eat a healthy diet, pay attention to blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and see your physician(s) annually for checkups.

March is also **Women's History Month**. Encourage your family by reading, watching, and visiting exhibits about women's contribution to the our planet.

And, of course, please visit the Parent Resource Center. Hope to see you soon!

—Shelly Duckett, Parent Resource Center Coordinator

Parent Julie Savage of her recently released book **Women Making America**.

—Alexis Ruffin, Book Fair Coordinator

## Geography Bee Program in

Can you name the capital of Wyoming? How about Bolivia? Do you know the name of the world's largest inland body of water? If not, you might want to check with your Woodlin student.



Geography study packets will be distributed to all third, fourth and fifth grade students this month, and they are busy learning all about US and world geography. Please encourage your child to complete a page or two each day—they'll be done before you know it!

Once a student has completed a packet, they should bring it back to school and check their answers against the answer key (each classroom has one).

Students that complete the packet will have their names read during morning announcements. The class with the highest percentage of participation will win a pizza party! The deadline for completed packets is April 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you or your child have any questions about the program, please contact Lisa Walker at [es-walk@hotmail.com](mailto:es-walk@hotmail.com) or Alice Witt at [alice.witt@mac.com](mailto:alice.witt@mac.com).

—Alice Witt and Lisa Walker  
Geography Bee Coordinators

## SPRING BREAK—Don't Take a Reading Break, Read, Read, Read!

*As our Spring Break is fast approaching and families are making plans for trips or family time, please encourage your child to include reading time during the break, as well.*

Students who spend more time reading are better readers. Research indicates that ten to fifteen minutes of daily reading increases a child's score on standardized tests by twenty percentile points. Students who are at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of standardized tests read five times as much as the children at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile; and, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile child reads approximately forty-five minutes a day. So, children who

read the most, read the best!

Before Spring Break, make sure your child has chosen a library or personal book or books to read during the break. Books can be taken out at our media center during media time or you can visit the public library with your child. Select a book you might want to share, too. Reading aloud with your child is a wonderful way to share great literature, discuss the books, and help develop rich vocabulary. When discussing a book with your child, either one that you read with your child or one that your child reads on his/her own, talk about the theme, main idea, problem, solution, and characters. Ask about

his/her favorite part and let your child tell you why he/she felt that way. If it's a non-fiction book, discuss the content and some interesting new information he/she has learned. Showing an interest in what your child is reading sends a message that reading is an important activity in learning and thinking. Modeling being a reader, too, whether it's reading a magazine, newspaper, or book, and discussing what you have learned. Your example as a reader and learner can be a motivating factor in your child's life.

Enjoy your Spring Break and remember to encourage your child to enjoy some reading, too!

—Dianne Tencer  
Reading Specialist

## March is Women's History Month!

Every week in March, a Did You Know? email will be posted on the Woodlin PTA listserv filled with interesting facts about the women who made America. For example: Have you ever heard of . . . Jackie Mitchell? She made the news when she struck out Babe Ruth, Tony Lazzeri, and Lou Gehrig during an exhibition baseball game that she pitched against the New York Yankees in 1936. She was only seventeen years old. When the baseball commissioner revoked her contract, he said, "Life in baseball is too strenuous for women."

Look for the Did You Know? e-mail every week in March—read, enjoy, pass around to friends and family and celebrate the millions of women who have helped shape America. For more information, contact Dena Leibman via e-mail at [denaleibman@yahoo.com](mailto:denaleibman@yahoo.com) or Julie Savage via e-mail [five.savages@verizon.net](mailto:five.savages@verizon.net).

—Dena Leibman

## GREEN TIPS

Get healthy and go green. Instead of buying bottled water, reuse your own bottle and fill it with water from home. Save money and the environment.

## WOODLIN'S WINTER FESTIVAL

Thanks to everyone that came out for the Winter Festival and Silent Auction. We raised over \$8700 for the PTA. While this was below our budget, we were quite pleased by the total since our budgeting happened well before the economic collapse. Many community members came out to participate, too.

If you have any comments or ideas for next year, please contact Jane Curtin at [jane\\_curtin@yahoo.com](mailto:jane_curtin@yahoo.com).

—Jane Curtin

### Easy Fundraising.

Woodlin's Spirit never dies! Purchase a Woodlin T-shirt or sticker and support our school. See the Woodlin PTA website for more painless fundraising ideas [woodlinpta.org](http://woodlinpta.org).

### SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for the first

**FAMILY NIGHT OUT!**



**Saturday, March 14.**

And the kids can join in the fun, too. Kids go to **COLOR ME MINE**, Adults go to **ADEGA WINE & CELLARS CAFÉ**. See page 1 for more details!

## Black History Month Wrap Up

The Black History Month Committee (BHM) would like to thank each of you for your support during Woodlin's Black History Month Celebration. This year featured cultural, educational, and artistic activities...a little something for everyone. The BHM Committee wanted to incorporate fun, educational, and cultural elements into this year's celebration. And what better way to celebrate than through music! The theme for the 2009 BHM Celebration was "Legends of Motown". We began our celebration with the Legends of "Motown Dance and Idol Performance" where more than 50 students performed some of Motown's most memorable hits. Our students even sacrificed their recess for a week to learn the song and dances (Thank goodness for the bad weather.). All of the students that participated received a "Certificate of Participation." Everyone had a wonderful time at the dance where the student performed. We even had a "Soul Train Line" with both parents and students showing us their coolest dance moves.

Beginning in February, daily black history facts were read on the PA system each morning. These facts compiled by Pat Price, were not the traditional facts heard only in February each year. How many of you knew that the 29th president of Georgetown University was African American? Patrick Healy served as president from 1873-1882.

Next was the Culinary Tasting of delectable soul food dishes that were shared by Woodlin families during the February PTA Meeting. Deb Grant's article "Heart and Soul" began the conversation about the origins of soul food and what it meant not only to African Americans, but to all cultures. Many families braved one of the coldest days of the year to attend this event. There were so many tasty dishes to choose from. We appreciate all of the contributions and volunteered to support this effort. Special thank you to Yvonne Moore for her fabulous spread of 16 home cooked dishes.

Music and song can be inspirational and moving. The BHM Committee sponsored an Essay and Poster contest entitled "Playing for Change: Peace through Music". Eight posters are currently on display on the bulletin board near the cafeteria. Please stop by and see their great work. The winners of the contest received a \$10 gift card from Borders Books and a Certificate of Participation. Special thanks to Aisha Burgess and Evita Smedley

for serving as judges. The winners of the contest were:

5th – Julissa Diaz  
3rd – Rose Saifimin  
2nd – Riley Lewis Jones  
1st – Alexandra Ody  
1st - Dana Tandoc  
K – Avery Smedley  
K - Luca Utterwulghe  
K - Claire Bautert

Oral history is one way that history has been passed from one generation to the next. Communication through written words is another. Amy Alexander wrote a salient article in the February Newsletter entitled "The Story of Black History Month in America." Amy superbly takes us back in history to help us understand the origins of Black History Month. She lays out the timeline from the great migration era through the present with the election of the nation's first African American President. If you have not read this article, please take a moment to revisit. The February PTA Newsletter is also posted on the Woodlin PTA website [woodlinpta.org](http://woodlinpta.org). Woodlin students also received special editions of the PTA Newsletter written by Pat Price. Two versions were distributed to students K-2 graders and 3-5 graders received Newsletters with Motown Records facts and activities.

Ms. Sirgo, read the Reedy Readerize, a mutant Caterpillar/Butterfly that loves to read, story to the students during a Town Meeting in February. Dr. Virginia Sargent, his creator, thoroughly entertained students reading the Rainbow Fish.

The Black History Month Committee truly hopes that everyone learned something new. We trust these activities helped us to appreciate the many contributions made to music, culture, the arts, and education by African Americans. Also, to understand that America is truly a melting pot, where everyone has an opportunity to excel and with hard work, one might even become President.

Finally, all students received a book mark of "Inspiring Moments in African-American History" with some of the most prominent black history facts of the 20th and 21st Century.  
—The Black History Committee (BHC)

Aisha Burgess  
Shelley Duckett  
Yvette Harris  
Yvonne Moore  
Pat Price  
Sabrina Thomas, BHC Coordinator

# Woodlin's Spring Fair

**Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009**

**Time: 4:00 to 7:00 PM**

**Place: Woodlin Elementary**

It's time again for the annual Spring Fair at Woodlin. Help us make this year's Spring Fair the best ever! Volunteers are needed. Sign up and make this a great day for our Woodlin Families. Contact Shelly Duckett via e-mail at [duckettshelly@yahoo.com](mailto:duckettshelly@yahoo.com) or via phone at 301-326-2237.



Contact Shelly Duckett for more info  
[duckettshelly@yahoo.com](mailto:duckettshelly@yahoo.com)  
Sponsored by **Woodlin PTA**

## STUDY CIRCLE UPDATE: KEEPING WOODLINERS INFORMED

Members of the Woodlin community can now view the short video about the Woodlin Study Circle by going to the Woodlin Elementary School home page. Just click on "Woodlin Elementary School Study Circle Program" to hear participants talk about the powerful Study Circle experience.

### A Study Circle Discussion: We Have More In Common Than We Think

During Study Circle, members participated in an exercise where we discussed our differences and our similarities. We talked about differences in marital status, age, hair, skin color, language, and culture. We acknowledged that these differences sometimes push us apart. We also realized that we had a lot in common. Some shared the same birth order, a difficult childhood, aversion to extreme weather, and a penchant for good food. We also acknowledged that we do not experience the world in the same way. Consequently, we must strive to understand and respect opposing perspectives.

One action step determined by the group was to raise cultural sensitivity among students, parents, and teachers. Below you will find an activity that illustrates how much we are alike where it counts — on the inside. We hope you will take a moment to conduct this brief exercise with your child!

### We're All the Same on the Inside

Grade Level(s): Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade,

By: Renee, preschool teacher

This is a simple look at how we can look different on the outside, yet be the same on the inside. We use this activity around Martin Luther King Day after a discussion about prejudice.

#### Materials:

One or more brown eggs

One or more white eggs

A bowl

#### Plan:

Following a discussion with the children about how people are alike (we all have two eyes, we all have hair) and how we differ (blue eyes vs. brown eyes, long hair vs. short), show them a brown egg and a white egg. Discuss the similarities and differences in the eggs. (They are oval, they are different colors.)

Break each egg into the bowl and dispose of shell. (Hint:

## IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

**3/14 Saturday, Parent's Night Out**

**3/16–3/27 Monday to, Friday**

MSA Testing, grades 3, 4, 5

**3/27 Friday, Early Release Day**

**3/30 Monday, NO SCHOOL, Professional Day**

**4/6–4/13 Monday to Monday,**

Spring Break

**4/14 Tuesday, PTA Meeting**

**4/21 Tuesday, Pre Earth Day, Prepare grounds**

**4/22 Wednesday, Earth Day**

**4/23 Thursday, Book Fair, class preview**

**4/24 Friday, Book Fair, Family Night**

**4/27–4/30 Monday to Thursday**

Terra Nova Testing, grade 2

## Applause! Applause! Applause!

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bake Sale Success!!

Thank you to Michelle Radecki, Lena Browne, Sharon Bisk, Beth Maclay, Chris Reshitnyk, Carole Giunta, Sydney Trent, Jennifer Nassen, Sabrina Thomas, Martha Kyrillidou, Liz Baldini, Marcia Greville, Cynthia Mackie, Alice Witt, Jane Rogers-Warsaw, the Press family, and the Penaflor family.

Thank you to our 5<sup>th</sup> graders who volunteered during the sale: Hannah Sheinkman, Lauren Kronheim, Shalaine Thomas, Alexandra Seeman, Marcus Hibbeln, Dion Penaflor, Bobby Radecki, Brendan Witt, Mya Kelly, and Nick Chupka.

And, a very special thank you to Edith Livingstone for organizing and supervising the entire event! Congratulations on a super job!

—Mary Press

*Winter Festival Volunteer Coordinator*

This is best done above their eye level because if they see which yolk came from which egg, they will be able to make a distinction). Can they tell which is which?

No—because eggs, just like people, may LOOK different on the outside, but are all the same on the inside!

—Evita Smedley for  
The Study Circle