

January 2011

Auction and Winter Festival Luau Style Feb. 13

Come enjoy the Winter Festival on Sunday, Feb. 13 from 2 to 5 pm. Come in from the cold and warm up with some fun with a Hawaiian flavor! There will be lots of entertainment for kids and lots to bid on for parents! We will have a teacher raffle, face painting, craft room, bingo, and used jewelry sale. Learn and enjoy a traditional Hawaiian dance! The tumblebus, Tropical Moon Bounce, and a train adventure will turn up the heat in the gym. Hawaiian smoothies and shaved ice, pizza, and snacks will be available to sustain us through all the fun. Visit the used book sale so you will have some reading material on your next tropical get-a-way. See you all there, Aloha!

Volunteers Needed for Winter Festival

Please donate your time or things (jewelry or books) to help out with the Winter Festival. We will need help before, during, and during breakdown. The hours are from 2-5 on Sunday, Feb. 13.

We need volunteers to work in the following areas:

Teacher Raffle

Arm Band Sales

Gym Supervision

Craft Room

Used Book Sale

Used Jewelry Sale

Food Sales

Face Painting

Please contact Laura Stewart laurastewart@starpower.net or Melita Flannery wflannery@verizon.net for more information and to offer help!

Dance, Dance, Dance, Dance!!!

Please join us for the Woodlin Elementary School Annual Disco Dance on Saturday, January 22 from 7-9 pm. This is a fun-filled and free event for the entire family. Feel free to wear your favorite bell bottoms, platform shoes, and 70s attire. Refreshments will be provided. We ask that you bring a dessert to share. All students must be accompanied by an adult. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sabrina Thomas at stthomasabrina@hotmail.com.

Black History Month Highlights

February 1 – PTA Meeting, Culinary Tasting and Living Historical Performance

The Reginald Lewis Museum of Baltimore Maryland has traveling performers who visit schools and other venues to help bring history to life. We are very fortunate to have arranged an interactive performance of Rosa Parks, the mother of the Civil Rights Movement.

Bring your favorite comfort food dish to share (4-6 servings). Dishes from the African Diaspora and beyond are welcome too! Please contact Charlotte Anderson at charjustin@verizon.net if you would like to donate a dish. You won't want to miss this special evening of food, fun and friends!

Principal's Corner

Mrs. Sarah Sirgo

Teaching children the value of money

At least twice a year I have the pleasure to travel to Chicago to spend time with my husband's family. Over the past 15 years I have found that there is something different about Chicago versus DC. While both are cities, DC has a culture and philosophy that values constant work and upward mobility in a way I find differs from our area. The DC culture about having, doing, and being could swallow up even the best meaning mid-Westerner. I share this not as a value judgment on whether DC or Chicago are the better city, but that I have come to believe that there is something about this area, that equates what we have with who we are and our value as individuals. I don't know where it came from or why it happened, but I know that I am not alone my worry about how this could be transferred to our children. Allowance is typically the first foray for children in to the world of money, but how can we teach our children to value work and earning money versus the things money allows us to acquire?

To that end I went in search of something that might help me figure out how we can help our kids. The book [Earn It, Learn it: Teach Your Child the Value of Money, Work, and Time Well Spent](http://www.earnmykeep.com) by Alisa Weinstein, was the first one I came across that addressed this (www.earnmykeep.com). She offers the following story to illustrate why she came up with this book:

So there we were, in Target, my four year olds resolve growing stronger with every passing second. A waxy, glittery, cotton-candy pink Lip Smackers lip balm was calling her name. How dare I say no? But I did. And in a moment of spontaneous genius I also said we'd go home and hunt down every last lip balm hidden in every last purse and pocket she owned. Once we'd done so, of course she'd see she didn't need that new one. Right? Thirteen lip balms later (I counted twice to be sure), it seemed I was wrong. She still had to have that tube of glittery bliss. So much for genius. But I just couldn't and wouldn't budge. She's four, for Pete's sake. "Mia, I'm not buying you any more lip balm. You want it? Get a job." And so she did.

Alisa's philosophy is that just because we can afford to buy something or give something to our children does not mean we should. If you don't believe in paying allowance for chores or if you want your child to understand that money doesn't grow on trees in a way that is fun, you may want to consider her approach. If we don't get paid for making our beds why should our kids? Child experts often disagree on whether allowances should be the outcome for completing chores. On the one hand, asking children to complete chores for pay may reduce the amount of entitlement present in our kids and on the other; chores should be required just because a child is part of the family. However, if we condition allowances only on household chores, children may believe the only way they will participate is if they are paid and may think that *all* jobs around the house should be monetarily compensated. Where ever you fall on this debate, below are some helpful hints to begin or review your home allowance program and teach your children about how to value money, work, and their time.

1. Allowance: Identify what chores are tied to allowance and set a level for amount of time and money earned.
2. Saving: Pay the allowance in small bills and coins to practice counting and money skills. Have children place the money in piggy banks or envelopes labeled with categories for saving, or with older children open up a basic bank account where they can deposit the funds.
3. Tracking: Have your children keep track of what they purchase. Talk with them about how they feel about what they buy and what they are saving for next.
4. Long Term: Work with your child to create a savings plan. We often are used to the quick fix and many of our children do not think beyond the immediate. Encourage your child to goals and when a big ticket item comes up; see if they will contribute a portion of the cost.
5. Philanthropy: Children are naturally generous and often will be familiar with fundraising and donations from their experiences at school and in the community. Have your child consider a donation to a particular group or event and match their contribution.

There are many ways to teach children about money, but more than anything our children learn about spending and saving from watching us. Set a model and example for your children that you want them to follow.

PTA President's Message **Chris Rutledge**

Hello Woodlin families and welcome to the New Year!

With 2011 come new opportunities to get involved with the PTA and your school!

First, I hope you will come out to the annual Woodlin Dance, to be held January 22 in the all-purpose room. Each year, this is a fun event, where kids of all ages can don their boogie shoes and groove with fellow parents and friends! Thanks to Sabrina Thomas and all of her volunteers for making this happen!

The dance serves as a sort of kick-off to each year's Black History Month celebration. This year, Robyn Seabrook, Charlotte Anderson, Sabrina and others will have a great array of events celebrating African-American history and heritage. One highlight will take place at the February 1 general PTA meeting, where we will host a potluck food tasting (keep an eye out for a call for dishes!) and a program that features educational and entertaining activities.

In February, on Sunday the 13, we will be hosting our wildly popular Winter Festival! Laura Stewart and Melita Flannery are working to make this the best Winter Festival yet, and a chance to forget the snowy, cold, mid-February blues for a few hours.

You may remember that each year, as part of the Winter Festival, we conduct a Silent Auction. The Silent Auction is an important fundraiser, and we need your help to make it successful this year! Jenn Sawin has posted information on the listserv about how you can help. This is a great opportunity to rid your closets of toys and games you may not need anymore, and to contribute donations of services such as cooking, computer consultation, etc. There's no better way to get to know your neighbors than to share with them your skills and talents.

Lastly, as we move into the spring, we will be conducting elections for officers and board committee chairs. Please consider how you can serve the PTA either as a board member or lead volunteer. An important kick-off activity is the formation of the Nominating Committee, which solicits volunteers to serve in the various positions. We need a diverse Nominating Committee to assure that we, as a board, adequately represent ALL of Woodlin, so please let me know if you can serve.

Stay warm!

Chris



Woodlin Wizards – The World Awaits!

Participate in the Geography Bee and you'll have the world at your fingertips! All third, fourth, and fifth graders are encouraged to accept this challenge -- and there are plenty of ways parents can help, too. The competitions will be held at 2:00 pm on the following dates:

5th grade: April 14

3rd grade: May 12

4th grade: May 19

Packets will be distributed approximately 1 month prior to each Bee and all students are encouraged to complete theirs and get their chance to try out for their class team. Every student who does complete their packet will receive an official Woodlin Wizard Geography Bee water bottle! Even cooler prizes are in store for each class team member and the winning team for each grade.

Parents, encourage your child to complete their packet – it is a great way to do something fun together and gives your whole family a chance to brush up on their knowledge of the world. Parents are also needed to help run preliminary Bees in each class to determine which students will represent their class, and there is plenty of assistance needed the day of the event, too. To volunteer, email Jane Curtin at jane_curtin@yahoo.com.

The Geography Bee planning team will send out more information closer to packet distribution dates.

Get ready to conquer the world, Wizards!

Dining Out Night Double Header! Color Me Mine & Nando's Peri Peri

When: Saturday, January 29

Where: Ellsworth Drive, Downtown Silver Spring

What: Kids' Night Out at Color Me Mine and Parents' Night Out at Nando's Peri Peri

Drop the kids off at Color Me Mine and have a date night at Nando's Peri Peri - all to benefit Woodlin ES!

6:30-9 pm: Color Me Mine is offering a fun-filled, kids' night including pizza, dessert and a Valentine's Day craft. Please see flyer for details and reservations. Cost: \$30 (\$5 donated to Woodlin), child +sibling: \$55 (\$10 donated to Woodlin).

5-11 pm: Nando's Peri Peri (next to Ann Taylor LOFT), downtown Silver Spring's newest restaurant, featuring delicious Portuguese flame grilled chicken, is generously giving **20 percent** of sales for anyone who mentions Woodlin (dine in or carry out)! This reasonably priced, family friendly restaurant features a creative menu, plenty of seating and a nice wine list! My family taste-tested Nando's recently and received two thumbs up for their chicken and bottomless frozen yogurt.

See you on Saturday night!

Please contact Laurie Yankowski with any questions at lyankowski@petersoncos.com.

Don't forget to support Woodlin when you grocery shop!

Sniders Receipts

Sniders receipts can be turned in to the Sniders box on the shelves in the copy/mailroom or sent via backpack mail. Please include the entire receipt, especially the date. Snider's gives us 1 percent back on purchases. Encourage your neighbors to give you their receipts.

Giant/Safeway Cards

Register your Giant (<http://www.giantfood.com/aplus?opco=GNTL>) and Safeway (<https://secure.escrip.com/jsp/supporter/registration/step1.jsp>) savings cards to support Woodlin. You must re-register your card every fall. Family and friends can also register their cards. Our Giant ID is #00913. Our Safeway ID is #6589421. If you would like help registering your card, please email wesretailcards@gmail.com or call Heather Lair at 301-891-8452. If every family participated, Woodlin would earn over \$10,000 annually!

Please take a minute and register your cards today!

Woodlin directory

The PTA will continue to update the Woodlin directory for the rest of the school year and electronic copies will be provided upon request to those with a child at the school.

For more information, contact Ellen Edge at eeedge@yahoo.com.

Bring kids used shoes and backpacks to winter festival for needy children

Children's used shoes and backpacks are being collected for underprivileged children in the Dominican Republic at Woodlin's Winter Fair, Feb. 13 by Leah Muskin-Pierret, a Woodlin alum and current Blair High junior.

Leah's "Passport to School" undertaking is her Girl Scout Gold Award capstone service project, comparable to an Eagle Scout endeavor. She learned first-hand last summer that children in the DR cannot attend public school without those two basic items. "Your donations are sorely needed and very greatly appreciated," she says.

To donate, bring shoes and backpacks to Woodlin's Winter Fair on February 13 and place in the designated Passport to School bins. Or if you can't attend the fair, contact Leah at lmuskinpierret@gmail.com or 301-585-5277 and she will pick up your donations. Thanks so much for your help!

Linda S. Katz
lindaskatz@aol.com

Shining Stars

Shining Stars is a program that was started last year at Woodlin to provide an opportunity for students to nominate their peers when they see them perform positive actions that are helpful to the school community. Shining Star nomination folders have been placed on each teacher's desk. Please encourage students to nominate their classmates when they observe Woodlin Wizards helping each other. Students who received Shining Stars last month include the following:

Shining Stars for December:

2nd grade: Giovanni Andrade, Abigail Oswald, Emily Cooper Lang, Jack Stoddard, Bracklin Williams, Aidan Kennedy, John Polito

3rd grade: Elizabeth Molnar, Lydia Brandt, Dana Dinn, Nahom Asrat, Alisha Sulisty, Jared Flores

4th grade: Levon Cooper, (Helen Bertot, Ashley Hernandez, Jordan Burgess - received one together), Nardose Messaya, Ella Savage, Soda Lo, Melanie Salazar,

January Shining Stars (so far)

1st grade: Gianni Grier, Caroline Grant, Eva Stoughton, Henry Dorsey, Ava Downs

2nd grade: Addison Roberts, Ayana Heijkoop, Maddie Flannery, Anna Cooper, Ellie Owen.

3rd grade Lochlin Davis, Elizabeth Olsson, Jessica Ormsby, Savannah Henry.

4th grade: Meagan McWright.

December January Book Suggestions from Readers' Lunch Bunches – Several times a week, Shannon Parkin, a mom of two at the school, meets with some of the 3rd and 4th graders to read to them during their lunch times. I have listed some of their favorite books from these students.

3rd Grade Favorites

The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen

Tracking Bigfoot: An Isabel Soto Investigation by Terry Collins

Graphic Library John Sutter and the California Gold Rush by Matt Doeden

If You're so Smart, How Come you Can't Spell Mississippi? By Barbara Esham

4th Grade favorites

Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan

The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles by Julie Edwards.

Freddy Goes to Florida by Walter Brooks

This month the **Biography Group** will be focusing on books in the Graphic Library Biography series that have been ordered for the Woodlin library in preparation for the biography unit the 4th graders will be covering in the spring quarter. Some of these books include the following:

Graphic Library Jane Goodall Animal Scientist by Katherine Krohn

Graphic Library Wright Brothers and the Airplane by Xavier Niz

Graphic Library Molly Pitcher Young American Patriot by Jason Glaser

By Shannon Parkin (volunteer reader and parent of Heather Parkin 4th grade and Carl Parkin 1st grade)

The following are child and or parenting classes offered by the YMCA Youth and Family Services. Contact information for the Y is below.

Helping Kids Deal with Anger **TWO locations**

Anger is good for identifying problems but not good for solving them. This workshop will address ways parents can help their children recognize early warning signs and develop strategies for dealing with their anger in a positive way.

Thursday, January 27, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Free. Donations appreciated. Long Branch Library, 8800 Garland Ave, Silver Spring



Parenting Without Threats and Bribes **TWO locations**

Parenting tools will be the focus of this how-to workshop. While the use of rewards and threats in disciplining may be effective in controlling behavior in the immediate situation, over time it can decrease mutual respect in the relationship. Come learn alternative approaches.

Monday, January 24, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free. Donations appreciated. White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring

Monday, January 31, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free. Donations appreciated. Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac

Dealing with a Strong Willed Child

Do you sometimes feel your child is more determined, more sensitive, more argumentative, more volatile than others? Come and learn how to turn these strong characteristics into positive attributes and make day to day family living more tranquil.

Tuesday, January 25 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free. Donations appreciated. Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda

Words: Parenting Classes

Family Anger Issues Four sessions plus snow makeup day

This class will help parents understand their own and their family members' intense feelings.

Topics include:

- Parent-child issues: power struggles and emotional outbursts
- Child-child issues: sibling rivalry, dealing with conflicts.
- Looking for patterns and creating strategies for change
- Prevention strategies: trigger thoughts, temperament issues

Required text, available first night: \$20; class fee: \$30.

Wednesday, January 19 – February 16, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. YMCA Ayr lawn Program Center, 5650 Oakmont Ave., Bethesda

Parenting Children

Parents will learn to identify the purposes of a child's misbehavior and develop effective discipline and encouragement strategies for positively redirecting these behaviors. Skills include: Developing effective consequences, structuring choices, and ending power struggles.

Required text, available first night: \$20; class fee: \$30.

Tuesdays, Feb 8 – March 15, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. YMCA Ayr lawn Program Center, 5650 Oakmont Ave., Bethesda

Parenting Teens

A down-to-earth and practical way to meet the challenges of raising teenagers. The group discussion format teaches skills to help improve parent/teen relations; develop teen self-esteem and self-reliance; and promote responsible teen behavior at home, school and in the community.

Required text, available first night: \$20; class fee: \$30.

Thursdays, February 3 – March 10, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. United Church of Christ, 9525 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring

Registration and Information:

Call (301) 229-1347 or email: parenting@ymcadc.org or www.ymcadc.org