



# Hawk Herald



January 29, 2010

Volume 40, Issue 6

## Message from the PTA President

Tracey Coleman

The snow and cold of January often makes people want to hibernate, but not at Hunting Ridge PTA! Right after winter break we coaxed you out of the house for our annual Gym Nights. Thanks to co-chairs Minda Josten and Greta Nielsen, Mr. Sobel, Mrs. Roberts and the parent volunteers for making these nights fun for all.

Ask your child "How was your day?" and you will be lucky to get more than "fine - now can I go play?" in response. This month, though, I hope you are hearing about some of the PTA-sponsored programs they have enjoyed. Cultural Arts co-chairs Jackie Chindblom and Amy Smolak arranged for a world music performance for the whole school on January 22 and a ventriloquist/storyteller on January 8 for the younger grades. VP-Programs Lisa Neal brought in two more curriculum-related assemblies this month for second and fourth graders. We are fortunate to have room in our budget for so many quality programs to enhance your student's education. More programs are planned for February and through the spring, so watch future issues of the *Hawk Herald* for details.

To keep the mind engaged during these long winter months, PTA is once again offering the Six Flags "Read to Succeed" program. Each child who logs six hours of pleasure reading (not homework) by the middle of February can earn a free ticket to a Six Flags amusement park this summer. Thanks to VP-Programs Lisa Neal and to the teachers for coordinating the paperwork for this popular program.

Fun is on the agenda for the next month at PTA! I hope to see many of you adults at tonight's Bunco Night at the South Barrington Club. Room parents are hard at work planning the classroom Valentine's Day parties for February 12. You will not want to miss the school Open House on February 18, and be sure to stop by the cafeteria for our Ice Cream Social. You are all invited to the Northwest Suburban Council PTA/PTSA meeting on February 22 at Carl Sandburg Junior High to honor the Reflections Contest winners from Hunting Ridge and throughout District 15.

It is also election season. No, not the Congressional, state and county races next week - while those are important, I am talking about PTA elections. Four of our officers are eligible for a second term, but this spring we will be electing a new President, a VP-Legislation (to encourage advocacy and keep you informed on children's issues) and a VP-Programs (to provide our curriculum-related assemblies and administer the reading incentive programs). One of your privileges and responsibilities as a PTA member is to nominate candidates for these offices. You attend our events and follow our activities; think about who would do a good job leading our efforts and nominate a candidate or two. Nomination forms are available on our web site, [www.hrpta.org](http://www.hrpta.org), and are due February 5. This is your PTA - have your say!

Tracey

## February

- 2/2 Boys 2 Ball, 4pm  
Palatine Community Center
- 2/3 Market Day orders due  
Girls 2 Ball, 4pm  
Palatine Community Center
- 2/9 PTA Meeting, 7pm, cafeteria
- 2/10 Board of Education Meeting  
7pm, Sundling Junior High
- 2/11 Market Day pickup  
Independence Highway  
Workshop, Sundling Junior High  
6:45-8:45pm, Girls & Parents
- 2/12 Valentine's Day Parties, 2:15
- 2/15 No School - Presidents' Day
- 2/16 No School - Teacher Institute
- 2/17 *Hawk Herald* Deadline
- 2/18 Waste Free Lunch  
Open House, 6:30-8pm  
Ice Cream Social, 7-8:30pm  
Independence Highway  
Workshop, Sundling Junior High  
6:45-8:45pm, Boys & Parents
- 2/19 ACCESS Testing Ends
- 2/20 IGSMA Solo & Ensemble Competiti  
Plum Grove Junior High  
D15 Educational Foundation  
Family Night, Chicago Wolves, 7p  
IL PTA Appreciation Night,  
Chicago Bulls, 7pm
- 2/22 Reflections Showcase &  
NWSC PTA/PTSA General Meeting,  
Sandburg Junior High, 6-9pm
- 2/25 Fourth Grade Multi-Cultural  
Music Program, 7pm
- 2/26 *Hawk Herald* Distribution  
Celebration Day  
IL PTA Appreciation Night,  
Chicago Bulls, 7pm



## Hunting Ridge School

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Hunting Ridge PTA Newsletter, PTA District 37

## Message from our Principal

### Mrs. Murphy

Dear Hunting Ridge Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that it is the end of January and the school year is half over already! Where does the time go?

Congratulations to the Hunting Ridge Lego Hawks who competed in the First Lego League regional tournament held in Mount Prospect. Of the 15 elementary and junior high teams that competed, Hunting Ridge finished in the top four which qualified them for the state tournament in January. Competition included judging on the team's robot, table competition, team dynamics, and presentation of a research project. At the state tournament there were 65 teams competing, and Hunting Ridge placed in the "middle of the pack". At this time, we do not know the exact place. Congratulations to team members Suruchi B., Bobby C., Alec D., James F., Bissem G., John K., Scott L., Rosa L., Brian L., Maddy M., Jakub N., Sarah P., Eric R., Daniel T., Pavel W., and coaches Marcia Rydquist and Ajoy Batra! Way to go, Lego Hawks!

Students from our sixth grade classrooms - Soojin J., Melinda C., Jong L., Masa A., and Gayathri D. - competed in a school wide Spelling Bee in early January. Winner Melinda C. went on to compete in the District Spelling Bee. The district winner, a student from Winston Campus Junior High, will advance to the next level of competition in the Chicagoland Spelling Bee. Congratulations to all of our winners!

A team of students representing Hunting Ridge School recently won highest honors in the WordMasters Challenge - a national language arts competition entered by approximately 220,000 students annually, which consists of three separate meets held during the school year. Competing in the very difficult Gold Division of the Challenge, and coached by Mrs. Marcia Rydquist, the school's sixth graders tied for ninth place in the nation in the year's first meet, held in December, among 190 school teams. Fourth grader Max A. earned a perfect score in the meet for his grade level. Other students who achieved outstanding results in the meet include fourth graders Greta S., Angela Z., Ben C., Gretchen C., Riley C., Daniel P., Nathaniel L., and Steve Y.; and sixth graders Julia C., Abby I., John K., Nicole R., Matthew T., Daniel T., Molly W., Aidan A., Michelle A., Claire B., Kailyn B., Melinda C., Aaron C., Karishma D., James F., Natalie P., Jada W., and Johnny W.. Congratulations on a job well done!

Besides the PTA's reading program, Read to Succeed, Hunting Ridge has once again teamed up with Fremd High School for the sixth annual Read and Connect Program. Students who reach a reading goal determined by their teachers will be honored at the Fremd Basketball game on February 19! Keep reading!

Even though the weather has warmed up a bit, we ask that students come prepared for outdoor recess! If the wind chill is zero degrees or below, the students stay indoors for recess. If the wind chill is between zero and ten degrees, the students may have "half in, half out" recess. If the wind chill is above ten degrees, students may be outside for the entire recess. Also, please be sure to mark your child's clothing. If you have looked at our Lost and Found Bin, you will find many unclaimed pieces of clothing! If a name is in a lost item, it is much easier to return it to its owner!

It will soon be Valentine's Day and parties begin at 2:15 pm. We welcome and look forward to having parents come in and help, but we ask that you do not bring siblings. This helps us keep the parties running smoothly. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

Mark your calendars Thursday, February 18. That is the night of our Open House where you can see "a work in progress"! Classrooms are open from 6:30-8:00 pm. PTA will also be hosting an Ice Cream Social that night in the café. We look forward to seeing all of you that evening!

Thank you for all of your continued help and support! As always, if you have any comments, concerns, or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone, e-mail, or in person. Stay warm!!

Sincerely,

Diane Murphy, Principal

## Programs - History, Science and Storytelling

### Lisa Neal, VP Programs

Every year Hunting Ridge families open their wallets to the usual fund raisers for our PTA. These funds are used for a variety of programs for the students at our school. This year as in many other years, our children benefit from the curriculum-based programs for every grade level. In the December newsletter you saw the sixth grade assembly entitled "Robots". This month I am happy to show you the curriculum based programs for first grade, second grade and fourth grade.

Our first graders enjoyed a story teller, Chris Fascione, who delighted the first-grade classes with holiday stories from around the world. This corresponds with Holiday Tradition unit that our first graders study during December. Stories consisted of Potato Latkes, Twelve Days of Christmas and a story about Kwanzaa.

Second graders laughed their way through an assembly dealing with the state of matter. Cold temperatures and its power over water and air were demonstrated by Steve Belliveau throughout his program "Getting Excited about Science". Our students were wowed as a fellow student was turned into a hockey puck on our stage.

In celebration of Presidents' Day our fourth graders enjoyed a visit from our 16th President, Abe Lincoln, and his wife Mary. These performers have always been a Hunting Ridge favorite and they do a superb job of depicting the period and the history of Abraham Lincoln's time. Michael Krebs and Debra Miller have performed around the state and nation as President and Mrs. Lincoln. The fourth grade classes enjoyed this outstanding performance.



We have more programs planned for the remainder of the grades. Kindergartners will have their turn in March, followed by third and fifth grades in early May.

## Legislation

### Jacqueline Kurkcu, VP Legislation

I thought that this week I would focus on the local level of legislation, in regards to two issues addressed by the Board of Education. It is a reminder of how, as parents, we need to be actively involved in our community and to keep in touch with what is happening.

At its January meeting, the school board approved a new contract for the newly formed Bus Drivers Union. This contract included 11.4% in raises (2.88% a year) over the four-year contract. This was an issue that the Board spent a lot of time discussing and debating upon. The final vote rested on a five to two majority.

The second topic focused on a standard recess policy for all elementary schools. At present the school board members are still in discussions on this topic and will expand and possibly vote on this topic in June.

We strongly urge you to stay informed. You can read more about these topics by viewing the board of education link at [www.ccsd15.net](http://www.ccsd15.net).

Do not forget there are primary elections coming up for county, state and congressional offices on February 2! Make your voice heard and VOTE.

## Multicultural Family Fest News

Michelle Burger & Coleen Anzalone

SAVE THE DATE - Wednesday, April 21, 2010 is the date for the Multicultural Family Fest this year!

WE NEED YOU!

We are still looking for volunteers to coordinate a booth for the following countries:

- France
- Australia
- Sweden
- Pakistan
- Scotland
- Mexico
- Israel
- Ireland
- Poland

You do not have to be from the country or have even visited; just have a desire to be part of this fun event. Or if you have a new country to add to the fair, we would love to have some new ideas. It is not too late to participate!

If you are interested in being on a committee for ANY of the countries in the list above or want to help out in other ways, we would love to have you join us! For more information, please contact one of the committee members: Coleen Anzalone at (847) 397-1614, [cta38@comcast.net](mailto:cta38@comcast.net), Michelle Burger at (847) 226-8661, [burgermichelle@netscape.net](mailto:burgermichelle@netscape.net), Kathy Ferry, Karen Kurka, Sue McTague, Judy Puhl or Pam Trausch.

There is still time to join in the fun and be part of one of Hunting Ridge's Blue Ribbon events!

## Reflections

Jacqueline Kurkcu

A big congratulations to seven of our talented Hunting Ridge students whose Reflections entries were judged at the NWSC PTA/PTSA (Northwest Suburban Council) level and went onto PTA District 37 to compete among 1464 other students.

- Literature: Nicole H. & Natalie P.
- Visual Arts: Nicole H. & Natalie P.
- Photography: Eden G., Luke D., Alyssa P., Miley W. & Natalie P.

Once there, these students competed amongst the most talented artists in the District and I am very proud to announce that we have 2 students who are now state finalists! And they are both being honored for their fabulous photographs depicting "Beauty Is....."

A big congratulations to  
Alyssa P. and Miley W.!

We will be closely watching their progress and cheer them on as they compete for national recognition in Washington D.C.

## Environmental Education

Laura Corrigan

The next "Waste Free Lunch" day is February 18, 2010. We are excited to announce that any student with two or less throw-away items in his or her lunch will be entered in a drawing for a Wrap-N-Mat. Wrap-N-Mats are special mats that can be used to wrap sandwiches or other lunch items, and be used as a place mat.

Please save your old gym shoes! In March, we will start collecting old gym shoes at Hunting Ridge for Nike's "Reuse-a-Shoe" program. Please place any old gym shoes in the collection boxes located in the atrium. This shoe drive will run throughout March and April.



## Ice Cream Social

Sandy Cimaglia, Janet Guarino, & Erika Lekas

Please come to the Ice Cream Social in the cafeteria during Open House.

Thursday, February 18  
7:00-8:30pm

Hope to see you there!!!!

Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Sandy at [angcorp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:angcorp@sbcglobal.net) if you can help.

## Kindergarten Registration

Ann Lenz & Kathy Ferry

### Please note the date change.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2010-2011 school year is Tuesday, February 23, 2010 in the main atrium at these times:

9:30-11:00am  
1:00-3:00pm  
6:00-8:00pm

Please bring the following:

- Birth Certificate (not hospital)
- 2 Local Emergency Numbers
- 2 Proofs of Residency
- Physician's Name and Address
- Documentation of Health, Dental and Eye Exams (if completed)

NEW students for Fall 2010, first-sixth grades are welcome to register on this day!

Please share this information with friends and neighbors.

Kindergarten Round-Up is Thursday, May 6, at 9:30am and 10:30am. Parents and their pre-kindergarten student will visit the kindergarten classrooms, meet the kindergarten teachers and receive a short tour of the school.

## Nominating Committee

Linda Millar

The PTA Nominating Committee is currently seeking nominations for the following PTA positions:

- President
- Vice President of Legislation
- Vice President of Programs

In the Hunting Ridge PTA, positions are typically held for two consecutive years. These three positions need to be filled in May 2010. All PTA members are eligible to nominate someone for any position. There is no limit to the number of candidates you can nominate and you can even nominate yourself. All comments or nominations will be kept strictly confidential per PTA guidelines. Please complete an Executive Committee Nominating Recommendation Form which is available on the PTA website, [www.hrpta.org](http://www.hrpta.org), or in the school office. Place completed form in the PTA nomination box in the school office or email one to [linmillar@comcast.net](mailto:linmillar@comcast.net). Deadline is February 5!

**Reading Rocks!**

Karen Surdynski, LRC Director

Thank you for the donations to the LRC from:

- Will and Alyson F. - many miscellaneous book donations
- Joe and Daniel M. - [Bear Feels Scared](#)
- Ryan and Sarah Stapleton - many miscellaneous book donations
- Molly W. - Treasury of Horses Series, Magic Tree House, Judy Moody, Animal Arc Series, Secret Unicorn Series

**Electronic Hawk Herald**

Are you receiving the *Hawk Herald* via email? If not, sign up now! The *Hawk Herald* has switched to electronic distribution, so join our mailing list today! Go to [www.hrpta.org](http://www.hrpta.org) and look for the "sign up to be on our mailing list" link on the home page or email us at [hawkherald@gmail.com](mailto:hawkherald@gmail.com). If you have any questions, please contact the editors at the above address or call HRPTA President Tracey Coleman at (847) 934-8251.

**Healthy New Year's Resolutions for Kids**

Wendy Milligan, RD, LDN, Healthy &amp; Safety Committee Member

Happy 2010! Beginning this New Year, many of us will make resolutions to eat healthier, lose weight, or exercise more. This is also a great time for our kids to make their own healthy resolutions. As parents we can help our children come up with a plan or schedule to support their resolutions and keep them motivated by providing lots of positive reinforcement.

Here is an age appropriate list of healthy resolutions for kids from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Preschoolers

- I will brush my teeth twice a day.
- I will wash my hands after going to the bathroom and before eating.
- I will clean up my toys.

Kids, age 5-12 years old

- I will drink milk and water, and limit soda and fruit drinks.
- I will apply sunscreen before I go outside.
- I will try to find a sport (like basketball or soccer) or an activity (like jumping rope, dancing or riding my bike) that I like and do it at least three times a week!
- I will always wear a helmet when riding a bike.
- I will wear my seat belt every time I get in a car.
- I will sit in the back seat and I will use a booster until I am tall enough to use a lap/shoulder seat belt (4 feet 9 inches).
- I will be nice to other kids.
- I will be friendly to kids who need friends, like someone who is shy or new to school.
- I will never give out personal information on the internet (name, address, school name, phone number, or picture) and only use the computer with adult supervision.

Kids, age 13 years old and up

- I will take care of my body through physical activity and nutrition and adequate sleep.
- I will eat at least one fruit and one vegetable every day, and limit the amount of soda I drink.
- I will choose non-violent television shows and video games, and only spend 1-2 hours each day at the most on these activities.
- I will help out in my community through volunteering or joining a group that helps people in need.
- I will wipe negative self-talk from my vocabulary.
- When I feel angry or stressed, I will take a break and find constructive ways to deal with it, such as exercising, reading, writing in a journal or talking to a parent or friend.
- When faced with a difficult decision, I will talk with an adult about my choices.
- I will be careful about whom I choose to date, and always treat the other person with respect.
- I will resist peer pressure to try drugs and alcohol.
- I will not to use a cell phone or text message while driving and will always use a seat belt.

Enjoy a Healthy, Safe, and Happy 2010!

**Yearb**  
Jacqui L

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## Yearbook

Jacqui Downing, Brian Chalmers & Jacqueline Kurkcu

The Yearbook pages are coming together nicely to make a fabulous memory of the 2009-2010 school year. We have a lot of memories crammed into these pages, but as we have been saying all year, we can never have too many pictures! It is not too late to send us your photos, especially anything involving our graduating sixth graders. We just need them ASAP as our deadline with the printing company is fast approaching. Also, we do need your help with capturing the fun at our Valentine's Day parties. Please take some pictures and send them to us as quickly as possible at [yearbookhr@gmail.com](mailto:yearbookhr@gmail.com).

## Health & Safety Committee

Linda Millar

### February Fruit & Vegetable Challenge February 1-26

February is Heart Health Month and the Health & Safety Committee is pleased to present the February Fruit and Vegetable Challenge.

We will be in the cafeteria on a different day each week in February. If your child has a fruit or vegetable in his/her lunch, their name will be entered in a drawing. Six names will be drawn every Friday in February and the winners will earn a \$5.00 gift certificate to Subway, Jamba Juice, Sports Authority or Barnes and Noble.

The purpose of this program is to encourage children to eat healthier by including more fruits and vegetables in their diets. Thank you for your support of this program and your commitment to healthy children.

## Independence Highway

Linda Millar, NWSC PTA Health & Safety Chair

Northwest Suburban Council of PTAs/PTSAs presents a workshop Independence Highway. This program is for students in grades seventh and eighth grade and their parents. Sixth grade parents are encouraged to attend but due to the subject matter it is up to your discretion if you want to bring your sixth grade student.

Independence Highway is a program designed by the Society for the Preservation of Human Dignity. The program provides parents and teens the opportunity to discuss topics including healthy sexuality and relationships, both together and with their peers, in a facilitated learning environment.

Independence Highway Program Schedule:

Whole Group:

The evening begins with a parent and student quiz about the evening's curriculum.

Split Groups:

Parents: Brain development in teens

Students: Peer pressure, goal setting, media messages

Whole Group:

The evening concludes with a discussion on pregnancy and STDs/STIs and a question and answer period.

Walter R. Sundling Junior High

Girls and Parents, February 11, 6:45pm-8:45pm

Boys and Parents, February 18, 6:45pm-8:45pm

Students from all district 15 junior high schools are invited to attend. Please RSVP at least five days prior to the program date to Linda Millar, NWSC PTA Health & Safety Chair at [linmillar@comcast.net](mailto:linmillar@comcast.net).

For more information about the curriculum, please visit [www.sphd.org](http://www.sphd.org).

## Spotlight on the Board

Jennifer Mondy

The Spotlight on the Board column is on recess indefinitely. The Spotlight on the Board [website](#) will continue to be maintained and updated on occasion. Whenever news articles appear in the *Daily Herald* or *Chicago Tribune* regarding the districts, Jennifer will post them as well as any public documents that she obtains that are relevant to the district.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in reporting on BOE meetings, whether it be once or regularly, please email Jennifer at [fcwnews@comcast.net](mailto:fcwnews@comcast.net).

## D15 E-Flyers

District 15 is going "green" by launching a new approach to distributing information from nonprofit organizations and intergovernmental agencies, or from business partners whose purpose is to further an activity or program initiated or sponsored by the district. Rather than sending flyers home with students via backpack mail (which previously only took place at the elementary level), we will post such information on this D15 E-Flyers Web page for all to see. It is estimated that this will save nearly 2,000 hours per year in sorting and handling of these materials, not to mention trees and other resources.

To read the flyers from nonprofit groups, intergovernmental agencies, and other business partners online, follow this [link](#).

[www.hrpta.org](http://www.hrpta.org)

Checkout the Hunting Ridge PTA website for news, events, forms, past issues of the *Hawk Herald* and other helpful information.