



Hawk Herald



December 16, 2011

Volume 42, Issue 5

Message from the PTA President

Diane Zara

Thank you to everyone who drove to Barnes & Noble last month for our first offsite Hunting Ridge Book Fair. Mrs. Bergen and her therapy dog, Lucy, were a big hit, as were all the teachers who volunteered their time reading, and all the kids who performed. Thank you to **Linda Millar, Sue Gould and Monika Bhatla**, who organized such a fun event. Thanks also to the ever-so-creative **Ton Chaiyaroj** and to **Rajneesh Singh** for all their assistance. I applaud them all in their efforts to spearhead something new! The proceeds from the Book Fair will be given to the LRC.

Did you visit the Holiday Shop? Hunting Ridge had its own mini-Woodfield after school in the cafeteria on November 29th. This PTA event is run as a service instead of a fundraiser, so reasonable prices were a bonus for our little shoppers. Many thanks to **Jean Forrest** and **Maureen Mooney** who organized the Holiday Shop, to the parents who volunteered to oversee the activities and work the registers, and to the 5th grade Girl Scout Troop for their wrapping services.

Continuing the holiday spirit was our Family & Community Support co-chairs, **Sharon Perkins** and **Ann Marie Anzalone**, who coordinated our Toys for Tots drive in conjunction with the Village of Palatine staff, the Palatine Fire Department, and the Inverness Police Department. Thank you to the Hunting Ridge families who generously donated new toys that will be delivered to children in the northwest metropolitan area by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

Did you know that PTA coordinates and funds nine to ten assemblies each year to enrich our children's educational experience? Our VP of Programs, **Rajneesh Singh**, has scheduled seven different grade-level assemblies, each of which ties into the curriculum for that grade. For example, the 4th graders' program "Meet the Lincolns" corresponds to their Civil War social studies unit. PTA also funds cultural arts assemblies for the entire school. This type of program features performers in music, dance, story-telling, poetry, etc. This year our Cultural Arts co-chairs, **Kathryn Gierke** and **Sheryl Wade**, have booked two great assemblies. In March, Guy Louis, a highly talented musician, will present music from different cultures around the world. In May the kids will be treated to a rhythmic dance ensemble called "Be the Groove".

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6:00-6:30 pm -
Kindergarten
6:30-7:00 pm - 1st Grade
7:00-7:30 pm - 2nd Grade
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Grades K-6
1/10 PTA Meeting 12 pm
Gym Nights - Girls
6:00-6:30 pm - 3rd Grade
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1/11 Board of Education Meeting
@
Sundling 7 pm
1/12 Market Day Pick Up
Gym Nights - Boys
6:00-6:30 pm - 3rd Grade
6:30-7:00 pm - 4th Grade

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 27th and get a babysitter so you can attend the PTA Bunco night! This fun evening is a great way for just the adults to socialize with friends and to meet other HR parents. Bunco is a high-energy dice game that requires no skill, so everyone can enjoy! For more details, see the Bunco article later in this newsletter.

Enjoy your family time over the winter break!
Happy Holidays!

Diane

- 1/16 NO SCHOOL
- 1/17 NO SCHOOL
- 1/18 Hawk Herald Due
- 1/20 Waste Free Lunch
- 1/23 Beginning Orchestra Concert @
Lincoln 7 pm
- 1/24 Gym Nights - Girls
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6:30-7:00 pm - 6th Grade
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- 1/26 Gym Nights - Boys
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6:30-7:00 pm - 6th Grade
- 1/27 Kindergarten Report Cards Issued
Hawk Herald Distributed

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

Message from our Principal

Mrs. Murphy

Dear Hunting Ridge Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe that we are at Winter Break already! Don't forget, school does not begin again until Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

This year some of our classes made cards for the soldiers in an American military hospital about 80 miles southwest of Frankfurt, Germany. Governor Quinn will be delivering these cards personally, along with cards sent by other students in Illinois. I'm sure the soldiers will enjoy reading all these cards! Thanks, Kids! Thanks, also, to all of you who have given toys to the Toys for Tots collection.

The days between Thanksgiving and Winter Break have been very busy and full of numerous activities such as concerts, Celebration Days, field trips and PTA activities that the students always enjoy. Our winter MAP assessing was also done during this time, and results for the students in grades 2-6 will be sent home in backpacks in early to mid January.

As you are aware, we are working hard on our Hawk Habits of showing respect, being helpful and using kind words. Our data tells us that we have fewer students receiving "majors" as compared to this time last year. We also are aware of some bullying issues with some of our students and are working to correct this, but we don't always know if others are being bullied. To help us out, if your child feels that he/she is being bullied or harassed, please let me know. Your insight is truly appreciated.

The format of our School Improvement Plan has changed this year. Once the plan is finalized it will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway and should be available on our website. We hope to have it done and posted some time in January. This year we have two parents, Mrs. Dinterman and Mrs. Brinckerhoff, joining our Building Leadership Team to work on this document. We are going to continue our goals of increasing the reading achievement of our students, which our SIP plan addresses, as well as working on our own goal of respect.

I would like to thank all of you who drop off your children in the mornings for moving up to the sign to let your children out of your cars. On the morning of our first snowfall, the line moved smoothly along and all the children were in their classrooms on time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!!

On behalf of the Hunting Ridge Staff, I would like to wish those of you who celebrate, a Happy Holiday Season, and everyone, a relaxing, restful Winter Break! As always, your questions, comments or concerns are always welcome! See you next year!

Sincerely,

Diane Murphy, Principal

Legislation

Kim Eck, Vice President of Legislation

STEM Academy Update - Last month I wrote about District 15 investigating the possibility of establishing a STEM Academy and Demonstration School. At the November 16 Board of Education meeting, Deputy Superintendent of Schools James Garwood presented the Board with refined plans and cost estimates for implementing Gateway to Technology, a middle school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program offered by Project Lead the Way. According to the November 16 board briefs, because of the tremendous amount of work that would need to be done and the significant number of challenges the District would encounter if it launched the program in all four junior highs at once, Mr. Garwood suggested piloting the program for a year in one school and then expanding it to the other three. The approximate cost of doing so would be \$25,000 per school for the program's two core units, and \$25,000 for each additional two units the District could decide to add. There are eight units available; over the course of a four-year period, each school developing the capacity to offer the entire program would require an approximate maximum investment of \$100,000. Mr. Garwood noted that there are several sources of funding the District may be able to use to fund the program's implementation-specialized STEM grants, potential local donations, and funds from the District's general budget. The Board decided to delay a decision on launching such a program next year until it could determine how it would fit into the budget for fiscal year 2012-13.

Please consider attending the Board of Education meetings to stay informed! The next regular Board of Education meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at 7 p.m. at Walter R. Sundling Junior High School.

Pizza Hut Book-It
Rajneesh Singh, VP Programs



The PTA sponsored Pizza Hut Book-It reading incentive program, which ran from October through December and is now drawing to an end. The December reading logs can be turned in to the class room teachers in the first week of January after the school reopens. I'm pleased to say that the response so far this year has been better than in previous years. Although such sponsorships provide incentives and motivation to the children, our main objective is to help them develop a regular reading routine at home. When the students read and fill in the log every night, they develop the habit of staying on task and remaining consistent.

I would like to encourage everyone to participate in the program and make it a success. Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a Very Happy New Year!



Reflections
Nancy Mau



Please congratulate these students who won at the Northwest Suburban Council level in this year's Reflections contest, "Diversity Means...". These students will be recognized and their artwork will be displayed at the NWSC Reflections Showcase on Monday, January 30th at Carl Sandburg Junior High.

Literature

Siddharth H	3rd grade,	"Interesting World"
Will F	5th grade,	"Diversity Means...Equality"
Washnavi V	6th grade,	"Diversity"

Photography

Kacey B	3rd grade,	"It's great to be able to choose your own backpack"
Nicholas P	3rd grade,	"Having a choice of fruit to eat and enjoy"
Jackson W	3rd grade,	"Diverse Dogs"
Emily L	4th grade,	"How does your garden grow?"
Stacey M	4th grade,	"Reach"
Stacey M	4th grade,	"Look"
Ally S	4th grade,	"Beautiful Trees"
Ally S	4th grade,	"Wild Flowers"
Griffin M	6th grade,	"Diversity"

Visual Arts

Andrea K	2nd grade,	"Happy World"
Emma M	3rd grade,	"So Many Snowflakes"
Isabella L	3rd grade,	"We are all different"
Marisa C	3rd grade,	"My Garden"

Multicultural Family Fest
Alicia Miller & Kim Ferrari

Multicultural Family Fest



The date of the Multicultural Family Fest has been set - Wednesday, April 18, 2012 from 6:30-9:00pm!

We would like to invite you to join us in a celebration of the diversity of our Hunting Ridge students and parents. The "Epcot-like" festival features a kaleidoscope of cultures, cuisine and entertainment. This event happens only every other year!

The planning meetings will start in January, but until then we are still recruiting for additional countries to be represented. If you are interested in representing and hosting a table at the fair for a particular country, please contact Alicia Miller @ (847)963-1829 or afoxmiller@sbcglobal.net or Kim Ferrari @ (847)991-4237 or kaferrari@aol.com. Thank you!

Bunco Night

Tracy Bongiorno & Debbie Perrin



Save the Date!

When: Friday, January 27, 2012
7:30 to 10:30p.m.
Where: Falcon Park Rec. Center:
2195 N. Hicks Road, Palatine
Cost: \$22.00 per person includes:
Bunco, snacks, pizza, adult beverages
and prizes.

Contact Tracy Bongiorno (847)359-1941
or Debbie Perrin (847)397-1334
with questions.

We'll be collecting donations for W.I.N.G.S. at
the event.



Health & Safety

Linda Styczen



Nutritious November

The Health & Safety Committee presented the Fruit and Vegetable Challenge on November 16th. Volunteers were in the lunchroom to survey students' lunches. Those students who had fruits or vegetables were able to fill out a raffle ticket for a chance to win a \$5 gift card to Subway. The raffle winners were Philip S, Lauren B, Bailey P, Muskan B, Eden G, Amanda E, Emma P, Bryan P, and Annabelle C. Congratulations to all the winners! Keep packing those healthy foods. There will be more Fruit and Veggie challenges in the months to come.

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 these programs and your commitment to healthy children.



Learning Resource Center

Karen Surdynski

With the holiday season and the spirit of giving upon us, I would like to extend my appreciation to those of you who have made donations to the Resource Center for the Birthday Book Club. We also were fortunate enough to receive several books from people who attended this year's book fair held at Barnes & Noble.

Eric B--"Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend"
Gabiella B--"Iggie's House"
Andre B--"Night Creatures"
Matt B--"Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series
Angeline Crocilla--"Yertle the Turtle"
Niko Crocilla--"Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?"
Abby Dannenbring--"The Penderwicks of Gardam Street"
Justin Glab--"The Chicken Doesn't Skate"
Austin Higgins--"Top 10 of Everything"
Amanda Huang--"Dewey the Library Cat"
Sophia Keller--"Holiday Howlers"
Madison Lammers--"Ralph S. Mouse" and "Fantastic Mr. Fox"
Kendall Maloney--"Skippy Jon Jones"
Stacy Mau--"Hate That Cat"
Morgan Miller--"Turtle in Paradise"

Our bulletin board is quickly filling up with pictures of the students proudly showing off their special "Birthday Book" or their book fair donation. Check it out the next time you come to the Resource Center!!

I wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Mrs. Surdynski

Health & Safety Committee

Wendy Milligan RD, LDN, Health and Safety Committee Member

Warm Up Your Winter with Exercise

Staying active is important for you and your kids to remain happy and healthy this winter. Now that it is colder, resist the urge to curl up on the couch and hibernate - it will definitely be worth the effort. Daily exercise provides benefits other than just endurance, strength, and a healthy weight. It boosts energy and helps children to focus during school and remember more. It enhances the immune system's ability to fight infections such as the cold or flu. Staying active improves mood by easing stress, irritability, and anxiety. Regular exercise has been found to reduce symptoms of depression and seasonal affective disorder. It can even help you to fall asleep faster and have deeper and higher-quality sleep.

Staying active on a regular basis will help establish healthy habits that last into adulthood. Parents can set a positive example by leading an active lifestyle and providing their children with opportunities to exercise and stay active. Ideally, children and adolescents should be physically active for 60 minutes daily based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2008 Guidelines. Here are ideas for staying active all winter long.

Bundle them Up and Send them Out

- Encourage outside games such as tag, football, hide and seek
- Go for a walk as a family to see the holiday lights or to walk the dog
- Play in the snow, make a snowman or fort
- Play at the park or take a trip to the zoo
- Go sledding, skiing or snowboarding

Find an Indoor Facility

- Take advantage of your local community center, park district and YMCA
- Go roller skating
- Take the kids bowling
- Go to the skating rink and ice skate
- Swim at an indoor pool
- Take your kids to intramurals before school
- Walk the mall before it opens, take the stairs instead of the escalator

Sign them Up for an Indoor Sport or Group Class

- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Swim Lessons
- Martial Arts
- Ice Skating

If You Can't Get Out of the House

- Put on music and dance
- Play Nerf or beach ball in the basement or playroom
- Put in a kids' fitness DVD or active video game
- Jump rope or hula hoop in the basement

District 15 E-News

Tim Waldorf

December 5 Forums to Outline Budget Concerns

The Community Consolidated School District 15 Board of Education has directed Superintendent Scott Thompson and his administrative staff to compile a list of potential budget cuts totaling \$10 million. That list is intended to guide the District as it works to determine how much to reduce its expenditures for the 2012-13 school year.

Recently updated financial forecasts show growing annual budget shortfalls draining the District's reserve funds over the next five years. The District is projected to run a \$6.2 million deficit this year, and, without any reductions, a nearly \$10 million deficit in fiscal year 2012-13. If not addressed, annual budget shortfalls such as these are projected to reduce the District's current fund balance of about \$55 million, which represents roughly 40 percent of its budget, to about \$4.8 million, or roughly 3 percent of its budget, by the end of fiscal year 2015-16.

Over the past several months, the District has been exploring ways to correct its structural deficit and maintain a strong financial position by bringing its spending more in line with its revenues. Board members, District administrators, and school principals have met to review the District's financial concerns and discuss potential solutions. During its October 16 meeting, the Board determined that compiling a "worst case scenario" list of potential budget reductions would help it, and the rest of the District 15 community, develop a consensus around the tough decisions that will have to be made.

The first step in developing that consensus will be reviewing the District's financial concerns with staff and community members during a pair of budget information forums to be held **Monday, December 5**, at Walter R. Sundling Junior High, 1100 N. Smith Street in Palatine. A forum for staff will be held from 4-5:30 p.m., and a forum for community members will follow from 7-8:30 p.m.

These forums will explain the District's current economic situation, and show how the District's

finances compare to other school districts around the state. The forums will outline how the District's budget is developed by explaining where it gets its funding, how it spends that money, and why it maintains cash reserves.

Additional forums will be held in January to provide staff and community members with opportunities to offer their feedback and help prioritize the District's list of potential budget reductions.

For more information, contact Superintendent Scott Thompson at [847-963-3205](tel:847-963-3205) or thompsos@ccsd15.net

District 15 E-News

Tim Waldorf

Fifth- and sixth-grade girls invited to District 211's 'GEMS Extravaganza'

Township High School District 211 will host a GEMS Conference for fifth- and sixth-grade girls and their parents on **Saturday, February 11**, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Conant High School, 700 E. Cougar Trail, in Hoffman Estates.

GEMS stands for Girls in Engineering, Math, and Science, and the purpose of this conference is to educate girls about careers in those fields, and to introduce them to female role models from these industries. Girls will learn about careers in engineering, math, and science by participating in hands-on sessions taught by women who are actively working in these fields. Girls will also receive a goody bag full of information.

Parents are also invited to attend the conference, as well. They can participate in seminars and discussions on how to prepare girls for success in engineering, math, and science courses at both the high school and college level. Raffle prizes will also be given away during the conference's closing remarks.

Registration for the second annual [Township High School District 211 GEMS Extravaganza](http://www.d211.org) begins **Thursday, December 1**, and closes Thursday, January 12, or when sessions are filled.

For more information, or to register, visit www.d211.org.

District 15 E-News

Tim Waldorf

District 15 crowns sixth-grade cross country champs

More than 400 students from each of the District's 15 elementary schools competed in the District's sixth-grade cross country meet, which was held October 4 at Salk Park in Rolling Meadows.

Crowds of parents, principals, assistant principals, teachers, aides, and Board members lined the mile-long course and cheered the runners to victory.

The meet was divided into six heats-three for girls, and three for boys. Medals were awarded to the top-10 finishers in each heat, and "top flight" ribbons were given to students who finished from 11th to 20th place. Every runner received a participation ribbon at the finish line.

First-place finishers in each heat received special recognition at the November 16 Board of Education meeting. They are:

- Dalton Rogers from Marion Jordan School, who was introduced by Michael Duffy, a PE teacher at Marion Jordan
- Sarah Clancy from Winston Campus Elementary, who was introduced by Scott Scafidi, Winston Campus Elementary assistant principal
- Marie Zdzienicki from Kimball Hill School, who was introduced by Lynn Cunningham, a PE teacher at Kimball Hill
- Max Clark from Stuart R. Paddock School, who was introduced by Gary Simonian, a PE teacher at Paddock
- Matt Wallace from Hunting Ridge School, who was introduced by Diane Murphy, Hunting Ridge principal
- Saffire Selof from Gray M. Sanborn School, who was introduced by Ryan Merle, a PE teacher at Sanborn

For more information, contact Sandy Drucker, PE facilitator, at [847-963-3103](tel:847-963-3103) or druckers@ccsd15.net

District 15 E-Flyers:

Grade Level	Description	Posted Through
Posted the week of 12/05/11		
Elem	Young Rembrandts Drawing at Central Road	02/01/12
Elem	Young Rembrandts Drawing at Lake Louise	02/01/12
Elem	Young Rembrandts Drawing at Pleasant Hill	02/01/12
Elem	Young Rembrandts Drawing at Stuart R. Paddock	02/01/12
Elem	Young Rembrandts Drawing at Winston Campus Elementary	02/01/12
Posted the week of 11/28/11		
All	Buehler YMCA Winter Break Sports Camps 2011	12/30/11
All	Buehler YMCA Sky Walkers & Slacking (High Ropes Class)	01/14/12
All	Buehler YMCA Winter Youth Sports Classes	01/14/12
All	The Center for Gifted Worlds of Wisdom and Wonder Winter 2012	01/14/12
All	Elite Chinese School Spring 2012 Saturday Programs	01/20/12
All	Fremd Viking Booster Club Holiday Craft Fair	12/10/11
All	Hoffman Estates Park District No School Field Trips	12/29/11
Elem	Lunch with Santa--Sat. Dec. 10th	12/10/11
All	Palatine Park District Fun Times December/January	01/31/12
All	Rolling Meadows Park District Winter/Spring 2012 Catalog	02/15/12
Posted the week of 11/21/11		
All	Free Child Safety Day with Fingerprinting and ID Kit	12/10/11
Posted the week of 11/14/11		
All	ArtReach Educational Theatre Winter Musical Theatre Workshop	01/08/12
All	Buehler YMCA Winter Basketball League	01/08/12
1-4	Buehler YMCA Winter Floor Hockey Clinic	01/08/12
K-1	Buehler YMCA Winter Soccer Clinic	01/08/12
5-6	District 211 GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math, & Science) Extravaganza-February 11, 2012	02/11/12
7-8	Fremd High School Introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences	12/07/11

All	Metropolis School of the Performing Arts Spring 2012	12/16/11
Elem	Rolling Meadows Renegades Youth Hockey	01/18/12
All	Salt Creek Holiday Happenings	12/31/11
Elem	Hunting Ridge Chess Club Fall 2011	12/16/11
Elem	Thomas Jefferson Chess Club Fall 2011	12/16/11
Posted the week of 10/17/11		
All	District Fifteen Educational Foundation Family Nights with the Chicago Wolves	03/04/12
Posted the week of 10/03/11		
All	PHS Junior Pirates Wrestling Club	12/16/11
All	Trinity Academy of Dance Irish Dancing	12/31/11
Posted the week of 09/26/11		
K-8	Cardinals Youth Wrestling Club	12/31/11
All	Rolling Meadows Park District Fall 2011 Catalog	12/15/11
Parent	SPARK 2011-12 Program Calendar	04/23/12

A Note from the Editors:

Nine issues of the Hawk Herald will be published during the 2011-2012 school year. We can be reached at hawkherald@gmail.com. An electronic copy of each newsletter is sent to the PTA President, Newsletter Editor(s) of each District 15 school, as well as all members of the District 15 Board of Education and the Director of District 37 PTA. Current and past newsletters can be found on the Hunting Ridge PTA website, www.hrpta.org.

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