

# Island Breeze

News from the Island Creek PTA  
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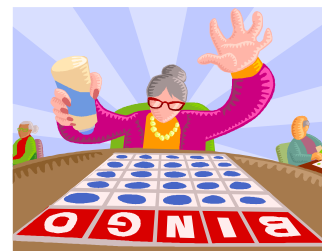
## Game Night at the Island: Basket BINGO Kicks Off February 3 *Party Like Croc Stars on the Big Football Weekend*

The PTA will kick off a super football weekend in style on **Friday, February 3**, with our popular **Basket Bingo Night** at Island Creek Elementary School. It will be a night where Giants' fans and Patriots' fans can get their "game on."

If you haven't attended **Basket Bingo Night** before, you are missing out on a wild ride. Filling out a card and shouting BINGO can be as much fun as watching your opponent's kicker shank a last-second field goal attempt.



Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased by filling out the registration form that can be found on the PTA website [www.islandcreekpta.org](http://www.islandcreekpta.org), or by contacting **Lorie Kappeler** at (703) 339-8882. A ticket entitles you to participate in the 12 regular games, while tickets for the three special games are \$5.00 per game. Advance ticket sales end **Wednesday, February 1**, so please get your orders in!



The doors will open at 6:00 PM, and Island Creek's **Basket Bingo QB Lorie Kappeler** will begin calling the first game at 7:00 PM.

Our popular mid-winter Bingo bonanza features Vera Bradley bags and Longaberger baskets stuffed with goodies and lots of local gift certificates. **Basket Bingo** includes 12 regular games of skill, three special games, raffle events and door prizes. With this lineup of action-packed fun activities, you will be holding a winning card all evening.

### **Urgent: We Need Your Help to Make Basket B-I-N-G-O Night a Winning Card**

The PTA needs your help to fill the Bingo baskets sponsored by each grade. Suggested basket themes for each grade level are listed below. Please send in any donations with your child by **Wednesday, February 1**. Collection boxes have been set up at the school. To see a copy of the donation request flyer, please click [here](#).

Please contact Bingo Basket Coordinator Lorie Kappeler at (703) 339-8882 if you have questions. Lorie could use a hand in assembling the baskets, so please think about helping her with this chore.



**Pre-School: Arts & Crafts**  
**Kindergarten: Baked Goodies**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Gardening**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: All-American Dad**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Cooking Something Good**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Summer Beach Fun**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Dad the "Grill Master"**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Sports & Fitness**

**Next PTA Meeting is Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 PM in the Island Creek Library**

## Creative Crocs: *Reflections* Award Winners to Be Honored at February 7 PTA Meeting

Congratulations to all the students who submitted art work for the 2011-2012 PTA *Reflections* Program. *Reflections* is the PTA's national arts recognition program that has encouraged millions of students to explore and display their artistic talents since 1969. This year's theme was "**Diversity Means...**"

There was a great variety of talent and creativity displayed in the visual art, dance choreography, musical composition and literature entries submitted by Island Creek students. The Island Creek *Reflections* Program received 56 entries this year, and we are pleased to announce the school award winners as well as those who earned recognition at the Cluster 4 level.

*Reflections* awards will be presented at the PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00 PM in the Island Creek Library. Student award winners and their families are cordially invited to attend.

**Outstanding Interpretation Award** (These projects were forwarded to the Fairfax County PTA level for the next round of competition):

Literature – Primary: **Sophia Suganuma**  
Literature – Intermediate: **Sydney Payne**  
Literature – Middle/Junior: **Carmen Mazyck**  
Visual Arts – Primary: **Sophia Suganuma**  
Visual Arts – Intermediate: **Rachel Wade**

**Awards of Excellence** were given to the following projects:

Literature – Intermediate: **Maggie Markon**  
Literature – Intermediate: **Collin Murphy**  
Visual Arts – Primary: **Amy Johnson**  
Visual Arts – Intermediate: **Anna Mack**  
Visual Arts – Intermediate: **Sydney Payne**

Cluster 4 winners have also been announced. This was the next level of competition. In the field of literature, an Outstanding Interpretation Award for Cluster 4 was earned by **Carmen Mazyck**, an Award of Excellence was earned to **Sophia Suganuma**, and **Sydney Payne** earned an Award of Merit. Carmen's project will compete at the District level.

In the field of visual arts, **Rachel Wade's** entry received an Award of Merit.

Please join us in offering congratulations to all of these creative students as they are recognized for a job well done.

A special **Croc Smile** goes out to **Nancy Harris** for coordinating this outstanding program for our Island Creek students again this year. Please contact Nancy [familyharris7@verizon.net](mailto:familyharris7@verizon.net) if you have questions about the *Reflections* award program or the February 7 awards program.



## PTA Mobilizing to Bridge Growing Digital Divide

As we reported in the last edition of the *Island Breeze*, Island Creek's Technology Specialist Mark Moran made a presentation at the December 6 PTA meeting reviewing the school's current technology infrastructure. The presentation is now available on the PTA website [www.islandcreekpta.org](http://www.islandcreekpta.org), or you can access the presentation directly by clicking [State of Island Creek Technology](#).



Island Creek has an extensive network of computers – there are three computers and a SMART Board in each classroom. The school also houses a permanent computer lab and has five mobile computer labs, which hold 16 laptop computers. However, with 800 students using the computers, they are in constant use, which makes maintenance difficult. The computers require extra attention because 66 percent of them are more than six years old. This means that many of our students are learning essential computer skills on sluggish computers and outdated software. Imagine, your smart phone is more sophisticated than two-thirds of our school's computers.

Computers are an essential tool in helping our children learn to communicate, collaborate, create, and to think critically in the technology dominated world of the future.

The school district does not have a systematic program to replace aging computers, so we are faced with a situation where many of our school's computers are older than the students who use them. With "computer years" approximating "dog years," you can see that half of our school's computers are fast-approaching retirement age.



The Island Creek PTA has a long history of using the proceeds from fundraising events to support technology improvements at our school, and we will be focusing our future fundraising efforts on modernizing our school's computer network. A PTA workgroup is being formed to work with Mr. Macrina and Mr. Moran to develop a long-range plan to meet Island Creek's computer needs.

## Think Pink: Winter Croc Top Day Is Coming February 17

The Box Tops for Education program is one of the most painless fundraising plans in the world. All you need to do is clip the pink coupons from your kids' favorite General Mills cereals and other common household products. Each box top is worth 10 cents, and every dime goes to support technology enhancements for our students.



The Island Creek PTA recently received a check for **\$1,179.90**, which was the haul from our October *Croc Top Day*. Box Tops Coordinator Toni Shipe has announced that **Friday, February 17** will be our next *Croc Top* collection day, which will be the last one of the school year.

While Toni and her merry band of enumerators are happy to count the box tops in any form, you can make her job a little easier by placing the box tops in bags of 50.

We have raised more than **\$10,000** through this program, so please keep clipping, and be prepared to send your box tops to school on February 17. The class collecting the largest number of box tops will be honored with a party.

**Toni Shipe** has been dutifully counting box tops for a number of years. We are grateful to her for her generous service to the Island Creek community.

## Registration for Croc Trotters Program Is Due February 8

If you are worried about trying to keep up with Principal Mike “*The Road Warrior*” Macrina in the April 28 *Croc Trot 5K* road race, the PTA has good news for you. We are sponsoring the *Croc Trotters* – a free 12-week program designed to prepare novice runners to compete. The Trotters will use a modified version of the popular “*Couch to 5K*” running program that combines walking and jogging over gradually longer distances each week.

The *Croc Trotters* will begin training Saturday, February 11 at 7:30 AM, and continue through April 21 (no session will be held April 7). The hour-long sessions will include a group stretch, guided work outs, a cool down period, social banter and a healthy snack.

Croc Trotter Head Coach Sheldon “*Fast Cat*” Hervey requests interested runners to submit their registration form (sent in last week’s Thursday folder), or contact him at [hervey.sheldon@gmail.com](mailto:hervey.sheldon@gmail.com) by Wednesday, February 8. Sheldon is former college cross country runner, and is a Boston Marathon finisher. He ran the *Croc Trotter* program two years ago and successfully turned many plodders into pacers.

Membership in the *Croc Trotters* is open to any member of the Island Creek family (staff, students, parents, siblings). However, school-age children must be accompanied by an adult. The Crocs trot in snow, rain, sleet or shine, so runners should wear loose-fitting clothes that are appropriate for the weather and running shoes, and they should bring a water bottle and a watch with a second hand.

## Sponsorship Opportunities Remain Available for April 28 Croc Trot 5K

The Croc Trot 5K road race is set for Saturday, April 28. The race, which is entering its fourth year, has become a “can’t miss” event for runners in the area. We are pleased to announce that sponsorship opportunities are available for community-spirited companies or individuals to help support this great civic event. In addition to recognition in our race materials, sponsors will earn the gratitude of more than 400 members of the Island Creek PTA. If you are interested in becoming a *Croc Trot 5K* sponsor, or if you know someone who might be interested in helping, please contact Croc Trot Coordinator Anne Cestare at [ajcest@verizon.net](mailto:ajcest@verizon.net).



## PTA Leadership Opportunities Still Available for 2012-13 School Year

Over the years, the Island Creek PTA has been blessed with outstanding leaders and committed volunteers who have headed projects on a number of occasions. You probably have noticed that many PTA volunteers have taken the lead on projects for more than one year. Many of these leaders have committed to leading projects again during the next school year, but then their children will be leaving Island Creek, so we will have some gaping holes to fill. We are still on the lookout for new volunteers who would be willing to serve as project co-chairs during the next school year. As a co-chair, you could help develop future programs and policies for the PTA while learning what goes into organizing a great event.



The vitality of the Island Creek PTA depends upon new leaders to take over for people that are moving away from Island Creek. This promotes new ideas that help keep our PTA so dynamic. Please contact PTA President Terri Maben [tmabe1001@aol.com](mailto:tmabe1001@aol.com) if you might be interested in becoming more involved in the Island Creek PTA.