



Island Breeze

Volume 2, Number 8

Newsletter of Island Creek PTA

April 2005

Spring Has Arrived

By Jeanne Igo, PTA President

What a wonderful sight to see: bright blue skies, green grasses, and an array of colorful flowers popping up everywhere. Spring always gives me a sense of revitalization, a sense of new beginnings, and, of course, long days at the pool are on the way. For our kids it means many sports practices and activities, a longer time to play outside, and no more winter coats. It also means it is time for the SOLs, the Standards of Learning tests. These are not the kind of test that students can study or cram for. They are designed to measure what a student has learned over the course of the school year.

As parents we can offer some tools for success. We can insure they are well rested for test day. We can send them off to school having had a good breakfast. We can make sure they have in their backpacks the necessary tools such as pencils and erasers. Most important, we can encourage them to do their best. It is important for them to realize that the tests should be taken seriously. Your positive attitude and a little preparation will help make it a good experience for your child. Oh, and lastly, tell them how proud you are of them, tell them you love them, and send them out the door with a hug. As they get older those hugs will be harder to come by so you may as well take advantage of it now!

For the PTA spring marks the beginning of preparations for next year. It is vitally important to have all our board positions filled and committee chairs in place. It allows us to continue to be successful so our children can benefit from the extra support the PTA provides. I realize many people feel that volunteering with the PTA requires a large time commitment. That generally is true if we only have a few hands doing all the work. Please consider devoting some time to the PTA so we can continue to offer our kids the best. Several people with a little bit of time working together will always get the job done faster than one person doing it alone. Plus, it is a lot more fun!

Ways to Encourage Student Success

1. Be a good role model. Children learn as much from how you act as they do from what you say.
2. Treat children with respect, and they will take your words and example to heart
3. Celebrate every child's success and sincere efforts. Be generous with your words of praise.
4. Have patience. Accept that children make mistakes, are inconsistent, and act thoughtlessly. This is part of being a child.
5. Be enthusiastic about the value of education and the fun of learning.
6. Set high but realistic expectations for your child's work and behavior.

Nominations for 2005-06 PTA Board

President
Jeanne Igo

**Vice President,
Community Outreach**
Liz Dunn

Vice President, Education
OPEN

Vice President, Ways and Means
OPEN

Secretary
OPEN

Treasurer
Marsha Porter

Please help us fill all the positions needed for a successful year! Contact Sarah Weller at kiddin@cox.net or Steve Wallen at sj7650@worldnet.att.net.

Calendar of Events

May 4 PTA Meeting, Library,
7 p.m.

Web page:
www.islandcreekpta.org



Ways and Means

Our Ways and Means Committee would like to try something new for next year. We are looking for two committee chairs to head up the committee. We would also like to divide the work load and put a different person in charge of each event. Most events do not require a lot of work, although there are a few needing a larger time commitment. If you are interested in working on any of the following fundraisers please let us know. They include Basket Bingo, Simon's Evening of Giving, gift wrap sales, Spiritwear, school supplies, Spaghetti Dinner, Movie Night, and Restaurant Nights. Please, please, please, come help us out so we can continue to offer these events.

Contact Jeanne Igo at (703) 339-1347 or e-mail: glasscutter99@yahoo.com.

Nominations

The Island Creek PTA is an invaluable source of support for Island Creek Elementary School and your Island Creek Croc. Many of the programs going on at ICES are a direct result of your PTA's hard work. Now we need your help! We are desperately in need of volunteers for Board and Committee positions. The following jobs are **open**:

Board Positions

Vice President for Education
Vice President for Ways and Means
Secretary

Committee Positions

Membership
FLEX (Foreign Language Experience)
Math and Science
Grant Writing/Technology

We also need assistants on all of the committees. For more information on the duties of each position, please visit our web site at www.islandcreekpta.org and look under "Contact List." If you are interested in a position or have more questions, please contact Sarah Weller at kiddin@cox.net or Steve Wallen at sj7650@worldnet.att.net.

Volunteers

You've done it again, parent volunteers—generously donating your time and baking talents to support our school! Thank you for all the hard work you put in to helping label and display art work for Fine Arts Night. The school hallways and gymnasium looked spectacular. Also, thanks goes to our baking volunteers for providing a huge spread of treats that were so delicious they were all consumed in record time. And a very special thanks to Kerry Donovan for organizing this fantastic art exhibit.

Cindy Wade, Volunteer Coordinator

eScrip VISA® \$50 Promotion

Island Creek Elementary School receives \$25 for each new account activated between April 1, 2005, and June 30, 2005. Your card must be activated before June 30th by making a purchase to qualify for \$25 rebate.

In addition, Island Creek Elementary School will receive a BONUS \$25 after your account has accumulated \$1,500 of net purchases.

Use your eScrip VISA® Platinum card when shopping at eScrip merchants and Island Creek Elementary School can "double dip" due to contributions made by these merchants!

Apply by Phone, Call Toll-Free 1-800-559-8917

Island Creek Collectibles Are Still Available: Only \$10!

Send in a check made out to "Island Creek PTA" in an envelope marked with "PTA-Collectibles," your child's name, and teacher.

Don't miss out on this special offer just for Island Creek families!



The Year of Languages

By *Christiana Hawes, FLEX Chair*

Island Creek PTA has provided our students with the opportunity to experience foreign languages. In the past two years, through the Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) Program, students have taken classes in French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Japanese. The FLEX program enriches the children's academic skills and enhances their cultural knowledge in an increasingly diverse society.

In order for this program to continue at Island Creek we need to have a PTA FLEX representative. This is a wonderful chance to support the school community in a meaningful way. In addition, the PTA representative will receive a tuition reimbursement for one dependent enrolled in the program. Please consider volunteering to promote languages especially in 2005, which has been designated as The Year of Languages by our U.S. Congress. If you have any questions or ideas, contact me at hawescr@aol.com.



Flex Languages Concert

By *Yin Mei Hueskes, FLEX Representative*

On the evening of Thursday, March 10, the Island Creek School Community enjoyed an evening of foreign languages and had a taste of exotic cultures. Students from the FLEX Spanish, French, and Japanese classes put on a show and performed in various languages. The Spanish teachers Señora Maria del Rosario Ceberg and Señora Adriana Kado and the French teacher Mme. Florence Newsome led their respective classes through various songs, games, and other pieces. The Japanese teacher, Mrs. Mami Saito, was unable to attend, but her class performed their pieces with a great deal of confidence.

Ms. Guiomar Anderson, Fairfax County Public Schools FLEX supervisor, gave an introduction and explained to the audience that by act of Congress, the year 2005 has been declared the Year of Languages. She also explained the importance of learning languages. In addition, Ms. Anderson announced the exciting news that Island Creek School will be hosting FLEX summer language camps. Information about the summer language camps is published in the FCPS Encore Summer School Programs catalog. Registration forms for these camps are also available in the catalog. All households receive this publication in the mail. The Encore catalog is also available at schools and at public libraries. Also present at the concert was the PTA's FLEX chair, Christiana Hawes, who organized the event (Ms. Hawes taught the FLEX Italian class at our school last year).

At the end of the show, the parents, the teachers and the rest of the school community were able to enjoy delicious treats and beverages. There were all kinds of cakes, cookies, egg rolls, etc.

A great thank you to all the FLEX class students and teachers for the great entertainment and show they provided! I am sure these children, their parents, and their teachers feel a great deal of pride in their achievements in another language.

Also, thank you so much to all who brought the food and beverages and thank you very much, or should I say *molto grazie* to Ms. Hawes for organizing this event.



Benjamin Nagao Wins Highest Award at State Level and Moves to National Reflections Program!

By Denise Bolton and Hayley Sterling, Reflections Chairs

Benjamin Nagao, an Island Creek Elementary 5th grader, won the Outstanding Interpretation Award (first place) in Virginia for his photography entry in the Intermediate Division (grades 3-5). Benjamin's photography entry is now at the National Reflections competition!



Benjamin Nagao's award-winning photograph, which will represent Virginia in the National PTA Reflections competition.

On March 30, Benjamin Nagao, Grade 5, and Ben Harris,



Benjamin Nagao (left) and Ben Harris received awards at the District Reflections competition.

Grade 5, received awards for their Reflections entries at the Fairfax County Council of PTAs and District (Fairfax, Falls Church, and Arlington) Reflections Award Ceremonies at Langley High School. Benjamin Nagao's Photography entry earned the District Outstanding Interpretation award and moved on to the State level, where it earned the Outstanding Interpretation award for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ben Harris's Literature entry won the District Award of Merit.

Attention All Crafters

We are interested in holding Island Creek's first Craft Sale, but we need to know if we have enough interest. If this is something you would consider doing, please let us know so we can start planning for next year. We would be looking for crafters and home-based businesses to participate. Please contact Jeanne Igo at (703) 339-1347 or e-mail: glasscutter99@yahoo.com.