



# Island Breeze

Volume 2, Number 4

Newsletter of Island Creek PTA

December 2004

## Happy Holidays!

By Jeanne Igo, PTA President

The PTA Board would like to wish everyone in our community a happy holiday season. We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for your time, your talent, and, most of all, your dedication to the children at Island Creek Elementary. Your efforts demonstrate your commitment to our school and our children. Our parents and teachers are an important part of our team as we work together to improve every child's experience during their stay at Island Creek. "Children are social beings and their most fundamental need is to feel connected. They develop a sense of security through feeling that they belong within a group." Your passion for volunteering is making a difference, and you should be proud of all we have accomplished.

I hope everyone who attended Movie Night earlier this month enjoyed watching *The Lion King* with friends and family. We are planning another fun family evening for January. The PTA will host its first annual spaghetti dinner night. Look for details in upcoming *Weekly Words*. We are also looking forward to our first guest speaker at our January PTA meeting. Mrs. Markon, our reading specialist, will plan a fun and informative evening on reading with your child. We hope you are able to attend to learn a few new strategies to help your child on the road to reading success.

If you are a parent with a child who will be taking SOL tests this year, try visiting <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Assessment/releasedtests.html> for previous years' tests. Print them out and have your child do some practicing over the winter break.

Our last PTA meeting featured a certificate ceremony for all those children who participated in our Reflections program. The children did a wonderful job, showcasing the talent we have at Island Creek. It is essential that we recognize our children's talents and support and encourage them. As parents, part of our job is to help our children discover who they are. Art and literature is a wonderful way to do that. Please consider encouraging your children's expressions next year in our annual Reflections program.

Lastly, we continue to work with our elected officials on making our community a safer place. We have been exploring ways to have our sidewalks on Morning View Lane cleared of snow so our children have a clear path to and from school. I wanted to thank everyone for their support on the boundary issues and the time they spent on attending meetings. The public hearings will be scheduled for January 4 and 5 at 3020 Gallows Rd., Falls Church. It has made a difference.

## Spaghetti Dinner



January 14  
5:00 p.m.

Island Creek Cafeteria

Spaghetti provided by  
Pasta and Pizza

Do you play an instrument?  
We're looking for strolling  
musicians to play during the  
dinner.

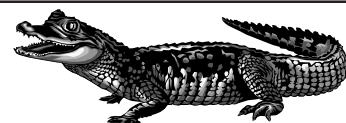
Watch your upcoming Thursday  
folders for more details.

Contact Jen Bishop, (703) 339-1888

## Calendar of Events

- Dec. 23-31 Winter Vacation
- Jan. 5 PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Library  
Speaker: Mrs. Markon
- Jan. 14 Spaghetti Dinner, 5 p.m.,  
Cafeteria

Web page: [www.islandcreekpta.org](http://www.islandcreekpta.org)



## Social and Fundraising Committees

In our long list of Basket Bingo sponsors, we left off two wonderful companies. Here's a belated but no less heartfelt thank you to **TLA Associates** and **Arbonne International**: Pure Swiss Skin Care, Color, Nutrition, and Aromatherapy (contact Leslie Hintz at 703-550-6135)

Thank you to Connie and Rudy Pruitt for donating their time and talents to make Movie Night a success!

Congratulations to Betty Harris and Theresa Painter, who were able to try their luck in the money machine at Simon's Evening of Giving.

Mark your calendars for our Spaghetti Dinner, January 14 at 5 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

*Jen Bishop, Fundraising Chair, (703) 339-1888*

November 9, 2004

### Dear Island Creek Elementary Community,

Thank you very much for your contribution to Life with Cancer made at Basket Bingo in memory of Mary Ellen Davis. Please know that your special gift allows us to support many families in our community who are facing the challenges of cancer.

Thanks to the continued generosity of donors like you, we are able to offer all of our services free of charge and since our inception have provided more than 100,000 hours of help to children and adults whose lives have been changed by cancer. We also offer more than 30 support and educational programs each month to carry out our mission of enhancing the quality of life of those affected by cancer by providing information, education, and support.

If you wish to learn more about Life with Cancer, you can visit us at [www.lifewithcancer.org](http://www.lifewithcancer.org).

Thank you again for your generous support.

*Warm regards,  
Gordon Hay, Director*

## Volunteers

### Movie Night

We had 34 parents who volunteered their baking talents for Movie Night and 14 parents who volunteered their time to chaperone the event. Our kids had a great time eating delicious treats while watching *The Lion King*. Judging from all the happy and enthusiastic faces, Movie Night was a grand success thanks to the hard work and generosity of our parent volunteers. Also, special thanks to our Hospitality Chairs, Julia Jessee and Beth Monroney, and our Social Committee, Jen Bishop and Sheila Dixon, for organizing this outstanding event.

### Library Book Fair

We had 45 volunteers who generously donated their time for the Book Fair. Our parents did a great job setting up, helping the children make their wish lists, manning the cash registers, and packing everything up. It was a long week, but with every one's help we managed to have every shift covered. Also, special thanks to our librarians, Jill Woodall and Debi Poole, for organizing the Book Fair. Due to their hard work, the Book Fair was a great success.

### Gift Wrap

I want to thank the 15 parents who volunteered to distribute gift wrap. Judging from all the positive feedback from the parents, it was well organized and parents were happy to get through the line quickly. The assistance of our volunteers was crucial to distributing the hundreds of orders of gift wrap and you have my admiration and thanks for a job well done. Also, special thanks to our gift wrap chair, Fran O'Donnell.

*Cindy Wade, Volunteer Coordinator*

### Community News

## Hands-On Activities with an Academic Attitude

**Kingstowne Library** offers a series of programs for children age 6–12 that include fun activities based on topics covered in school. No registration is necessary. Upcoming programs include:

**Medieval Times**

Wednesday, January 19, 4 p.m.

**Colonial Life**

Wednesday, February 16, 4 p.m.

# Reflections Program 2004–05

By Denise Bolton and Hayley Sterling, Reflections Committee

Congratulations to all the students that created and submitted creative arts works to the 2004–05 PTA Reflections Program. At the December 1 PTA meeting we presented award certificates to all participants. The original artwork and certificates for those that could not attend the award ceremony and reception will be returned to the students at school as soon as possible. Our judges were very impressed with the creativity, thoughtfulness, talent, and hard work displayed by all of the art, photography, and literature.

We are happy to announce and congratulate the Reflections entries that were forwarded to the county PTA level:



Creative Island Creek students receive their certificates for participating in the Reflections program.

## Visual Arts

Primary: Bridget Keenan, Grade K, "Native American"  
Intermediate: Matthew Taber, Grade 5, "Ninja Warrior"

## Photography

Primary: Hannah Bishop, Grade 2, "My Hero"  
Intermediate: Benjamin Nagao, Grade 5, "Nothing Stops Her"

## Literature

Primary: Hank Von Kolnitz, Grade 1, "A Different Kind of Hero Can Be Found Everywhere"  
Intermediate: Ben Harris, Grade 5, "Kate, My Hero"  
Middle: James Bonifer, Grade 6, "The Only One Who Cared"

We encourage everyone to participate again next year!

## PTA Support in Action

### Cultural Arts Program: Magician Joe Romano

