



Island Breeze

Volume 2, Number 10

Newsletter of Island Creek PTA

June 2005

Winding Down the Year

By Jeanne Igo, PTA President

As we wind down the 2004–05 school year, I think it is important to reflect upon our accomplishments we have shared together. We have successfully completed our second year at Island Creek. As you may know the PTA has three vice presidents who oversee various committees: Community Outreach, Ways and Means, and Education. We also were blessed with a dedicated secretary, Cindy Smoot, and Treasurer Sonia Smith. Under the guidance of Sheila Dixon (Community Outreach), Howard Wahlberg (Education), Penny Klein (Ways and Means) all our committees have shared in great success. Here are just a few highlights ...

Our Membership team was able to increase membership from last year, earning us discount fares at the national PTA convention. We established a great networking system to reach our volunteers for help when needed. We call them our fabulous Baking Team. We had our first corporate sponsor this year, Safeway, which donated \$1,200 towards a schoolwide and family night assembly. We brought in over \$1,000 from our Box Tops program, so keep on clipping. Monies also were donated to the school through the Giant and Safeway programs. Both our web site and newsletter chairs really enjoy their jobs and it shows. Hospitality did a great job at all our events making everyone feel welcome along with the special events to appreciate our teachers and staff.

Our Education committees saw that our children had a great language experience (FLEX) along with the Math and Science Made Easy after-school program. CAPs, our Cultural Arts Programs, planned great assemblies and we established for the first time a grantwriting program for our teachers to be awarded extra money for programs in the classrooms. These included Drama Club, the King Croc reading program at the Kingstowne Library, and SOL reading and math tutoring after-school programs. Our PTA Reflections program can boast its first national winner and helped put Island Creek on the map.

Our Fundraising team, led by Jen Bishop, had great success with the help from our fantastic parent volunteers to reach above and beyond our goals for the year. From the Gift Wrap sale, Basket Bingo, Spiritwear, Movie Night, Simon's Evening of Giving, and Restaurant Nights we are able to bring extra benefits to our children here at Island Creek.

We held our first Spaghetti Dinner night, which everyone enjoyed especially with the extra ambiance provided by our talented musicians. Our parent volunteers helped out with the schoolwide WAWAW Festival, which was a great success. Didn't that lobby look great!!! We also had our first Field Day and Art Night, which everyone enjoyed. Every year we will try and plan something new. Next year we are looking forward to a Craft Fair to be held in the beginning of December; so crafters, start crafting!

Like anything, it all takes hard work and commitment. This can only happen with caring parents like you who make a difference. The road is not always easy, but, like our beautiful library garden, we will continue to flourish and grow.

Your PTA board wishes everyone a safe, happy, and fun-filled summer.

Dear Island Creek Family,

Our family would like to give our heartfelt thanks for everything that the Island Creek Community has done over the last month. Lisa returned home from the hospital on May 26 and will continue to recover at home. We are truly thankful and blessed for all the support of the Island Creek Community during her hospitalization. All the help for our children, the meals sent to the home, and thoughts and prayers have helped make our life easier during this time. It is nice to know that we have a community that is willing to help us along the way.

ISLAND CREEK IS TRULY A CARING COMMUNITY.

The Heilbronner Family



Ways and Means: Past ...

As the outgoing vice president, I want to express a heartfelt thank you to the residents of Island Creek! You are the best!

First, thanks to the parents and children who helped us achieve our goals during the 2004–05 school year. Without your support in selling gift wrap, contributing items through the classes for our baskets for Basket Bingo, as well as attending the various Restaurant Nights and other events, we would not have been able to raise the funds necessary for the many field trips, teacher support, and multiple other budget line items. THANK YOU!

I also want to personally thank Jen Bishop for all the time and effort she has put into the fundraising activities. She has made the events seem like they ran themselves—smooth and fun. She put a lot of effort into getting the local merchants to sponsor our Basket Bingo and other events, identified a company for the school supply kits, and so many other activities that I can not begin to name them all. THANK YOU!

Box Tops were a huge success this year—to all of you who remembered to cut them out and send them to school—and to Christy Brusick who counted them all and submitted them—THANK YOU!

I appreciate each and every volunteer who baked cookies, sold tickets, set up/cleaned up, and any other position that wasn't paid by the hour, but by the smiles of our children. We could not have done any of it without your assistance—THANK YOU!

The Spiritwear looked great on the teachers, parents, and kids this year. Hope everyone enjoyed wearing it. Theresa Sunderland and Debbie Davis did a great job of providing us with shirts, sweatshirts, and sweatpants. THANKS!

Lastly, I want to thank Safeway and Candy Cook for supporting our school this year—you were great! And to anyone I didn't specifically name, but assisted in any way—THANK YOU!

Please continue to support the new VP of Ways and Means, Jen Bishop, as you so kindly supported me. Enjoy your summer and we'll see you in the fall!

Penny Klein, 2004–05 Vice President for Ways and Means

... and Future

Ways and Means is looking forward to a wonderful 2005–06 school year.

We have had some wonderful volunteers step forward and offer to run Basket Bingo. Aundra Rhone-Jones and Tari Stribling will be heading up that event which will take place on October 21, 2005. They are already in the planning stages for a fabulous event.

Our fall gift wrap sale will once again be run by Fran O'Donnell and Lisa Backe. We have changed companies and look forward to dazzling you all with the catalogs from Lavenders. Look for them to be distributed shortly after school begins.

Theresa Sunderland has volunteered to run our Spiritwear program. Let's show our school spirit and all buy a croc shirt. Look for other new and exciting products as well.

Our annual Movie Night will once again be a reality thanks to the Pruitt Family. Movie Night will be held in December. Can't wait!

Ways and Means is looking for a few volunteers to step forward and be the chair for our other events. We are currently without a Restaurant Night coordinator. This is a job that requires very little work and you would get to pick the restaurants we use. Fun, Fun!! We also need a chair for Simon's Evening of Giving. This is a shopping event held at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City in November. We sell tickets and get to keep a portion of the sales for the PTA. This volunteer will need to sell tickets and advertise. We are planning a craft fair to be held in December. We have a volunteer to do some advertising (thank you Ms. Page!), but need someone to chair the event. If you want to get involved in any of these fun things please e-mail me at jenbishop@cox.net.

Thank you Island Creek families for supporting all of the fundraisers this past year, and we look forward to earning your support in the upcoming year. Have a wonderful summer.

Jen Bishop, 2004–05 Fundraising Chair and 2005–06 Vice President for Ways and Means

FLEX Languages Program: Volunteers and Teachers Needed

Island Creek PTA, in conjunction with the Office of Adult and Community Education of Fairfax County Public Schools, has provided our students with the opportunity to learn foreign languages through the FLEX (Foreign Language Experience) program. In the past two years, this program has enabled students to take classes in French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Japanese. The FLEX program enriches the children's academic skills and enhances their cultural knowledge in a global society.

Your PTA will be continuing the FLEX program for the 2005–06 school year. I will be the new FLEX chair for the new school year. However, we are seeking additional FLEX PTA representatives to help. This is a great opportunity to support our school community. In addition, the FLEX PTA representative will receive tuition reimbursement for one dependent enrolled in the program; so this is also a great way for you to save money. Please consider volunteering to promote languages especially because this year, 2005, has been designated as The Year of Languages by the U.S. Congress. We are also seeking persons who can or who are willing to teach a foreign language, whether it be French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, or any other tongue. So if you want to make a little money and work in a convenient location, this would be a great opportunity!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please phone me at (703) 550-2357 or e-mail me at hueskes@erols.com.

Yin Mei Hueskes, 2005–06 FLEX Chair



Presenting next year's PTA vice presidents and president: Steve Wallen (education), Jen Bishop (ways and means), Liz Dunn (community outreach), and Jeanne Igo (president). They began their terms at the June 1 PTA meeting.

Cultural Arts Programs

CAPs are designed to provide creative programs to supplement your child's education at Island Creek. All performances are paid for by the PTA to give every Island Creek Croc another fun way to learn. We have enjoyed a great year of many wonderful performances, including *Books: The Magic is Real*, *Storyteller Extraordinaire*, and *The Pro-Kids Show*.

Special thanks to Mr. Macrina for helping me coordinate the shows, the custodial staff for setting up and cleaning up, and the students, parents, and staff who attended the shows. We are looking forward to a great year next year! If you have any ideas for shows, please contact me at kiddin@cox.net.

Sarah Weller, CAPs Chair

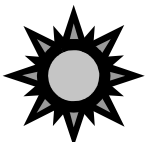
Thank You to Our Volunteers!

A very big THANK YOU to all our marvelous volunteers for the many hours you worked volunteering for our PTA-sponsored events this year. Your efforts made it possible for our children to enjoy many terrific school events and also helped raise needed money for all our spectacular field trips. Your time is precious, but you have generously given your time and that speaks volumes about the very special parents we have here at Island Creek.

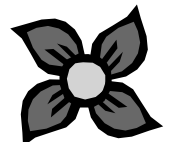
I would love to hear your ideas for continued improvement. Send your thoughts to cindymw@cox.net.

Again, thank you for all of your support—we couldn't have done it without you! Have a great summer and I look forward to working with you next year.

Cindy Wade, PTA Volunteer Coordinator



Have a safe and happy summer!
Don't forget to log on to the PTA's web page, www.islandcreekpta.org, for updates about next year's activities, especially as the first day of school nears.
See you in September!





Shoot for the Stars!

Keep reading and writing this summer! Participate in Island Creek Elementary's Summer Reading and Writing Program. Here's what you need to do:

Start reading the first day of summer vacation. Each time you read for 20 minutes, put a star on the special calendar. Sometime over the summer, send a postcard to Mrs. Woodall or Mrs. Markon describing what's happening in one of the books you read. **OR**

Make a Writer's Notebook. Write about your summer fun or any topic you choose. Add drawings and photos.

Give your calendar or notebook to Mrs. Woodall or Mrs. Markon at Open House or during the first week of school. Students who successfully "Shoot for the Stars" will be invited to a special celebration.

Watch your Thursday folders for more information. For details, contact Jill Woodall at jill.woodall@fcps.edu or Janey Markon at janey.markon@fcps.edu or call the office at (571) 642-6300.

Community News

Be a Major League Reader



The Washington Nationals and the Fairfax County Public Library invite you to be a major league reader this summer! The library's Summer Reading Program is held in cooperation with the Fairfax County Public School system, and encourages students to read for pleasure during summer vacation. There will be lots of special events performed by animal wranglers, musicians, magicians, puppeteers, and more! Check out the free activities at library branches near you.

Our local library branch is Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. (703) 339-4610. Hours: Monday to Thursday, 10–9; Friday, 10–6; and Saturday, 10–5. Come to the library often this summer and join in the fun! The Summer Reading Program runs from June 24 to September 3.

FUNtastic Reading! Summer Reading Programs

The Virginia PTA is joining with the Library of Virginia to promote reading this summer. FUNtastic Reading! is the theme for the 2005 Statewide Summer Reading Program. Libraries across Virginia are planning lots of fun activities for children of all ages, to keep them reading and enjoying books over the summer.

Visiting the library for recreational reading can keep children from losing ground over the summer. Most students score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they did on the same test at the beginning of summer. The largest losses are in mathematical computation (2.6 months) and reading comprehension (2.4 months).

For more information about FUNtastic Reading! visit the web site www.vacationreading.org, or contact Pat Muller, Children's & Youth Services Consultant, Library of Virginia, (804) 692-3765 or e-mail: pmuller@lva.lib.va.us.

Developing Minds Video Series Available

The Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA) presented Fairfax County Public Schools with eight sets of the *Developing Minds* video library (22 videos), by Mel Levine. This video series offers strategies for school success. The council will provide a video set to each Cluster. Now, **all** parents, students, and staff in FCPS will have local access to this video series.

The videos, in this library, are suitable for local unit meetings, staff programs, and/or individual staff, parents, and/or individual students use. FCPS Parent Resource Center has for several years provided parent workshops using this video series.

For more information, see www.allkindsofminds.com or contact Rosemary Salak, FCCPTA VP, at rosemary.salak@verizon.net or Connie Lorentzen, FCCPTA 1 VP, at carevan@erols.com.