



Island Breeze

Volume 3, Number 2

Newsletter of Island Creek PTA

October 2005

Thanks for Your Support!

By Jeanne Igo, PTA President

Thanks to all our very supportive parents, friends, family, office mates, teachers, and staff. This year's Fall Gift Wrap Fundraiser was a great success. Our initial projection was for \$27,000 and we have exceeded that by a rough count of \$10,000, giving our school an extra \$5,000 towards this year's projects. Even with a week's extension, we are looking at an early delivery date to be announced in November. Thanks for processing those orders on time! A special thanks also goes out to our committee chairs Fran O'Donnell and Lisa Backe for taking on this project one more time!

We are also looking forward to a fun-filled evening on October 21 at our third annual Basket Bingo, headed up by Aundra Rhone Jones. Dinner will be available starting at 6:00 p.m. Our food sponsors for this year will be Rice and Spice, Red Hot and Blue, Hard Times Café, and Dominos Pizza. Next time you visit one of these establishments, make sure you let them know how much we appreciate their support of our children's education. So for all those 4th grade parents just getting back from Jamestown, stop on in and have dinner and play a little Bingo. Hope to see you all there.

IHOP Night was a great success thanks to our restaurant planners, the Szramoski's. We earned a little over \$300, 10% of the night's proceeds. Don't forget to look for your picture on the IHOP Poster of Fame in the lobby (a sneak peek is on page 4).

The PTA is still planning upcoming events such as our first Sock Hop and our second annual Spaghetti Dinner. We are looking for volunteers to help with these events, along with a DJ and dance instructor. Please contact Cindy Harlow at cindy@thearlows.com or Liz Dunn at ldunn@prosignsusa.com if you can help.

Next month's PTA meeting will be held on November 1 at 7:00 p.m. We will be having a guest speaker on children's nutrition. We will get to sample some of her favorite, yummy alternatives to your child's diet. Come and try something new!

I would like to share with you with something I read recently. It goes like this:

The Two Most Important Sentences

According to a new study, the two phrases kids want to hear from their parents the most is "I LOVE YOU" and "I WAS WRONG." How often have you said these statements in the past month? The best parents are those who constantly express their affection and admit their mistakes. Don't assume your kids know you love them—say it and show it. And when you mess up, don't justify or get defensive. Admit it. Real parents ask for forgiveness.

Just a little food for thought!

Basket Bingo

Friday, October 21
Island Creek Cafeteria

Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.
First Game Starts at 7:00 p.m.

20 Regular Games * 3 Specials *
3 Raffles * Door Prizes

Featuring Longaberger® Baskets stuffed with items and many local gift certificates.

Tickets

\$15 in Advance
\$20 at the Door
(if available)



Questions? Call (703) 587-5235

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 21 Basket Bingo, 7 p.m., Cafeteria
- Oct. 28 Deadline for Reflections Entries
- Nov. 1 CAPs: Joe Romano
- Nov. 1 PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Library
- Nov. 20 Simon's Day of Giving, Pentagon City, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Dec. 3 Craft & Gift Show, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Cafeteria

Web page: www.islandcreekpta.org



PTA Committee News

We Need Your Help

By Cindy Wade, Volunteer Coordinator

We need volunteers for our Basket Bingo fundraiser, which will be held on Friday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers and is great fun. We use the proceeds to pay for such things as our children's field trips, but we need your help to make it happen!

Please e-mail or call to let me know if you can help. Thanks for your support.

Friday, October 21

3:30 p.m.: Volunteers to set up for the event in the school cafeteria

5:30 p.m.: Volunteers for the event (ticket takers, concession stand, raffles, specials, extra games, daubers, bingo board, clean up).

If you can volunteer, please contact either Cindy Wade, (703) 550-1791, e-mail: cindymw@cox.net or Aundra Rhone-Jones, (703) 550-6498, e-mail: a.m.rhone@cox.net.

Keep on Clipping!

By Christy Brusick, Boxtops Chair

Calling all Boxtops collectors!! We need you!! Our friendly classroom competition is back in full swing. Your children are counting on you to clip those Boxtops to push their classroom to the top and earn a classroom party.

Clipping Boxtops is really very simple. On the top of General Mills products you will find a small square that reads, "Boxtops for Education." Simply cut along the dotted line and send them to school with your child, who will deposit them in their classroom envelope. We'll take care of the rest. At the end of each quarter, the class who has collected the most will earn a classroom party.

The benefit for our school is \$\$\$\$. Each Boxtop is worth 10 cents. And when you add all of the classrooms together it literally means hundreds, even thousands of dollars for the PTA to spend on our children. So thanks for clipping and thanks for helping.

Reflections: Deadline October 28

By Marcia Pulver and Denise Bolton, Reflections Chairs

Our PTA is providing, again this year, the opportunity for Island Creek Elementary students to participate in the local, state, and national PTA Reflections Program. The Reflections Program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. The theme for the 2005–06 program is "**I Wonder Why . . .**" Watch for more information in school, in future newsletters, and on the Island Creek PTA web site. Start creating your works of art related to this year's theme!

Do you walk down the street and wonder why something is the way it is? Do you wonder why the grass is green or zebras are black & white?

If so, draw or paint a picture—write a story about your thoughts—compose a musical piece—use a camera to capture your imagination.

And then, enter the PTA Reflections Program this year!

Students can enter in four categories (pick one or enter them all!): Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.

Think about the theme "I Wonder Why . . ." and talk with your family and friends about what it means to you. Then write a story, write a song, create a piece of artwork, or take a picture.

For more information about the Reflections program, send an e-mail: boltondt@navsea.navy.mil.



ICES student Ben Nagao won the top award in last year's National PTA Reflections competition for this inspiring photo.

Fall Fundraiser Is a Success!

By Fran O'Donnell, Fall Fundraiser Chair

The Island Creek PTA would like to thank all the parents and staff who supported our school by ordering from the Lavender's gift catalogs! Preliminary totals show that we have significantly exceeded last year's profits. This means that the PTA will have more money to use for enrichment programs, field trips, and other events that supplement your children's education at Island Creek Elementary.

Your orders will be delivered to the school in early November. We will notify you of the dates and times for pick-up prior to delivery. If you would like to volunteer to assist with the distribution of the orders, please contact Cindy Wade at (703) 550-1791 or e-mail: cindymw@cox.net.

Also, please note that you may continue to place orders online at www.lavendersonline.org until early December. You will be asked for your child's name and school name at the end of the ordering process. Please give this information to friends and other family members, as well. If they order online, then your child will receive the credit, and Island Creek PTA will receive additional profits. Online orders will be delivered directly to the address of the person who places the order.

Questions? Contact me at (703) 550-2612 or e-mail: franmcv@yahoo.com.



Need more items from the Lavender's catalog? Order at www.lavendersonline.org until early December.



Cultural Arts Programs

By Sarah Weller, CAPs Chair

Joe Romano will be back on November 1! This is an encore performance for all the students at ICES, but his show will be completely different! Joe makes books come alive through magic and we are delighted to have him back.

Check back next month to see what other wonderful show we have in store for our Island Creek Crocs.

Parent Lounge Available

The Parent Lounge, across the hall from the Library, is free to use. Ask in the office for the code to unlock the door. The lounge has a computer for parents to use. The user code is parent and the password is parent. Enjoy the water in the fridge, it is there for your refreshment!

Craft & Gift Show

The Island Creek Elementary School PTA is hosting the first annual Craft & Gift Show on Saturday, December 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. Over 30 vendors will be on site to help you with your holiday shopping. Many items will be priced for children to shop for their family and teachers. Refreshments and gift wrapping will be available. Proceeds benefit the Island Creek Elementary School PTA.

IHOP Night

September 27
Fun, Food, and Funds



Thanks to everyone who came!



Community News

School Bond Referendum Up for Vote on November 8

On November 8, Fairfax County voters will decide on a School Bond referendum. The Fairfax County Council of PTAs asks voters to consider several points when making their decision:

1. Enrollment in Fairfax County schools is expected to increase by approximately 3,000 students during the next seven years, causing additional overcrowding in our schools.
2. The proposed \$246 million bond referendum, will add 55 new classrooms, providing capacity for 1,500 additional students.
3. The referendum includes funds to plan for the impact of the military's base realignment and closure study (BRAC), which could bring many more students to southern Fairfax County.
4. \$3.8 million will be used to relieve overcrowding by funding 18 modular classrooms at two existing schools, providing classrooms in half the time and at half the cost of conventional construction.
5. Planning funds for two new elementary schools and funds to build one new elementary school at the Coppermine site in western Fairfax County are included.
6. \$177 million will be used to renovate eight elementary schools and Edison High School and plan the renovation of eight elementary schools, Sandburg Middle School, and Marshall High School.
7. \$35 million will be used to support growing technology and security needs through the upgrading of power distribution and telecommunications systems and networks at schools not being renovated. Funds to replace aging infrastructure, including roofs, boilers, and air conditioning systems are also included.
8. FCPS students and hundreds of thousands of Fairfax County adult residents will benefit from increased and enhanced facilities as they use school facilities every year for meetings, classes, recreation, and other purposes.
9. The total amount of this year's bond referendum is lower than the last three bonds in 1999, 2001, and 2003.
10. The sale of school bonds avoids taking funds that are critically needed for classroom instruction. By staying within existing annual cash flow constraints on construction spending, these bonds have not caused tax increases and have helped protect Fairfax County's AAA bond rating.