



Island Breeze

Volume 4, Number 9

Newsletter of Island Creek PTA

May 2007

Heading for the Finish Line ... or Starting Another Race?

By Liz Dunn, PTA President

Even though we're winding down the school year, you'd never know it by the past month. Our May PTA meeting welcomed two special guests from the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Board—Dan Storck, chairman and Mount Vernon District representative, and Brad Center, Lee District representative. Mr. Storck and Mr. Center discussed the FCPS Mission—"... a world-class school system, inspires, enables, and empowers students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship"—as well as other topics including potential changes in the boundary planning process through more effective community involvement and better use of technology.

We also elected our PTA Board for 2007–08. A hearty Croc congratulations to

President	Marsha Porter-Houghton
Vice President	Denise Bolton
Treasurer	Cherie Rogers-Mazyck
Secretary	Lorie Kappeler

April and May also featured weeks of appreciation for volunteers and for teachers and staff. Island Creek Elementary's finest worked their magic and created a luscious luau for PTA volunteers, and the PTA returned the favor with a picnic lunch and yummy breakfast during Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Needless to say, no one left hungry!

Yes, we're heading for the finish line. But, there's always another exciting race to be run.

Proposed Bylaws Revisions

You'll notice in the list above that we have proposed a revision to the structure of our board. In this change, we create one general vice president rather than three separate positions (community outreach, education, and ways & means) as we have had in the past. As our bylaws committee researched other Virginia PTA organizations, we found that many are moving to a leaner board structure with stronger supporting chairperson positions.

According to the bylaws proposal, the new vice president will

- a. Act as aide to the president;
- b. Perform the duties of the president in the absence or inability of that officer to act; and
- c. Perform other delegated duties as assigned.

This revision, along with several others, is reflected in our proposed bylaws changes, which are presented in their entirety on <http://www.islandcreekpta.org/>. Thank you to our Bylaws Committee for all of their hard work: Jerry Franck, chair; Cherie Rogers-Mazyck; and Joanne Silbermann. We will vote on the proposed changes at our PTA meeting on Tuesday, June 5.

Calendar of Events

May 25 School Supply Orders Due

June 5 PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.

Web page: www.islandcreekpta.org



Croc Community Outreach Leaders Have Lots of Heart

"Community" is what Island Creek Elementary School is all about . . . and the Community Outreach volunteers have created a very strong sense of community during the past year on the Island.

Three (million) Croc Cheers to these invaluable volunteers in Community Outreach:

Sandy England for making the school—both inside and out—bee-utiful (no matter what the season)!

Kathy Askew, Linda Crouch, Tawnie Jewett, Heather Keith, and Heidi Miller for taking the lead in all Croc hospitality!

Liz Townsend for continuing her role as editor-extraordinaire for *Island Breeze*, the magnificent publication you're reading this very moment!

Tara Macbeth and Jeanne Igo for spending countless numbers of hours copying flyers in white, pink, blue, yellow, green, lavender, orange, and every neon color for Croc parents, teachers, and students!

Toni Shipe and Laura Newberry for coordinating, collecting and counting General Mills box tops for Croc \$\$\$!

Cindy Wade for continuing her role in recruiting, coordinating and keeping tabs on countless Croc volunteers for every single PTA event throughout the year! (Also maintaining the volunteer database and sending thank yous after every event!)

Kevin Brugman for continuing his role as PTA webmaster, staying on top of the ever-changing content (with an eye always toward making it Croc-friendly) and keeping Island Creek ahead of the pace in cyberspace!

Plan Ahead ...

SchoolKidz and Staples are making back-to-school easier than ever!!!

Order a school supply kit packed with exactly what your child's teacher requested.

Each kit is personalized with your child's name, grade, and school name. However, most importantly, each kit will be delivered to your child's classroom on the first day of school.

Deadline for all orders/payments is Friday, May 25, 2007!!!

The prices for the 2007-08 kits are

Kindergarten	\$21	3rd Grade	\$37
1st Grade	\$46	4th Grade	\$44
2nd Grade	\$36.50	5th Grade	\$48.50
6th Grade	\$45		

Send in your order today!

For additional information, please contact Cherie Rogers-Mazyck at (703) 339-1054.

This service is provided by Island Creek PTA.



* Backpack can be purchased separately

FLEX International Night

By Yin Mei Hueskes, FLEX PTA Representative

On the evening of Monday, March 26, the Island Creek Elementary School community enjoyed an evening of foreign languages and had a taste of exotic cultures. Students from the FLEX Spanish, French, German, Chinese, and Sign Language classes put on a show and performed in various languages. The Spanish teachers Senora Monica Ramirez and Senora Gloria Glick, the German teacher Frau Constanze Wales, and the Chinese teacher Mr. Anthony Koo (or Koo "Lao She") led their respective classes through various songs, poems, and even a play and a lion dance. The Sign Language teacher Ms. Tiri Fellows led the Sign Language class in signing a greeting at the beginning of the program and a closing statement at the



end of the show. The French teacher, Mme. Florence Newsome, was unable to attend, but her class performed their pieces with a great deal of confidence and energy. At the end of the show, the Chinese class also gave a Chinese paper folding demonstration.

In attendance were Dr. Owner, who opened the show; Liz Dunn, our PTA president; and Ms. Joyia Raftelis, the FLEX specialist. Also present were Mrs. Emily Mutterperl, my FLEX co-chair and the "photographer" for the FLEX International Night. Some of you may have noticed that her son, Noah Mutterperl, who

looked like he had been born to the role, led the French class throughout their performance!

At the end of the show, the parents, the teachers, and the rest of the school community were able to enjoy delicious food and beverages. There were all kinds of dishes, desserts, snacks, and drinks from various cultures.

A great thank you to all the FLEX teachers and FLEX students for the great entertainment and show they provided! I am sure the parents and the teachers feel a great deal of pride in the children's achievements in a different language. The



students themselves deserve to feel pride in all they have accomplished in these languages. All the hard work and effort the teachers and students put in certainly showed, not only in the International Night, but also the FLEX program.

Also, a note of appreciation goes to all the parents who brought the food and drinks. They were a much-appreciated and tasty finish to the evening.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Owner, Liz Dunn, the school office, the school custodians, the parents, the volunteers, and my co-chair Mrs. Mutterperl, without whose help and support the FLEX International Night—and the FLEX program itself—would not have been a success.

A Special Thanks for a Year of Successful Fundraising

By Janette Pai Kim (a.k.a. Christian's Mom), Vice President, Ways & Means

WOW ... I can't believe the school year is almost over! It has truly been a fun and exciting year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Crocs and families for their support at the various fundraisers. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves while helping to raise funds for our school! Thanks for all your support!

I would also like to thank all of our fundraiser chairpersons and the fabulous volunteers who assisted in making each event a wonderful and huge success.

Lorie Kappeler	Basket Bingo
Jeanne Igo	Gift Wrap
Dan Twomey	Red, Hot, & Blue Restaurant Night
Coleen Murray	I-HOP Restaurant Night and Domino's Pizza Sales
Sherri Dawson	Craft & Gift Show
Marsha Porter-Houghton & Jessica Tyeryar	Spiritwear Sales
Cherie Rogers-Mazyck	School Supplies Sales

THANK YOU!!!!!! Your time, effort, and dedication to lead these events are commended, and plays a BIG part as to why Island Creek ES is such a wonderful place to educate and raise our children!

Crocs rock, and so do you!!!!!!

We have truly enjoyed being a part of the Island Creek family. As Christian and I move on to join the Hayfield Middle School family, we will miss our fellow Crocs! Thanks for all the great memories.

Foreign Language Experience, 2007–08

The FLEX Office is always looking for persons who are interested in teaching other languages. Since the school opened a few years ago, FLEX has offered classes in European languages, Asian languages, and even sign language at Island Creek Elementary School. For the 2007–08 school year, we may also add an Arabic or Russian class to the schedule. If you are interested in teaching one of these classes, please contact me at (703) 550-2357 or hueskes@erols.com. Of course, if you are interested in teaching any other language you may also contact me.

The FLEX survey has been distributed and your input is essential for selecting and organizing classes for next year. If you have not already completed a survey, please do so and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Thank you.

Yin Mei Hueskes, FLEX PTA Representative

Fun at Movie Night

Island Creek's Movie Night with *Charlotte's Web* on Friday, April 27 was filled with film fans of all ages! Not only did Croc families enjoy Charlotte, Wilbur, Templeton, and the gang, we devoured pizza thanks to Roger Derflinger of Re/Max Allegiance (703-339-1771, rderflinger@msn.com) and Kingstowne Domino's (703-971-3033). Central Springfield Little League (CSLL) provided all the movie projection equipment to turn the Cafeteria into Croc Theatre—thank you. Last but not least, we appreciate all the PTA volunteers who served pizza, drinks, and cookies—and popped and popped and popped popcorn (led by our resident expert, Theresa Painter)!!!

To All Parent Volunteers:

Thank you for taking time out of your Friday night to provide a memorable evening for our children. You did a fantastic job setting up, serving food, and cleaning up afterwards. I know it was a chaotic evening, but the kids enjoyed themselves immensely. It wouldn't have been possible without your help—thanks again!

Cindy Wade, PTA Volunteer Coordinator