



Woodridge Eagle

Woodridge Elementary PTSA Newsletter

FALL 2011

2011-2012 PTSA Board

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What's going on at Woodridge?

The 2011-12 school year is off to a busy start, and the PTSA wants to help keep the Woodridge school community informed about events, activities, and news affecting the school. We hope the following options will help you feel like a part of the community and keep you involved at Woodridge.

1. Our web site, **www.WoodridgePTSA.org**. We'll review and update this site regularly. We hope you'll check it out and make it a favorite that you visit frequently.
2. The **Eagle eBlast** is a weekly e-mail providing timely information and reminders from the PTSA. It is sent on a subscription-only basis and the e-mail address you provide is not used for any other purpose. If you aren't yet receiving the eBlast, you can subscribe by using the form on our website homepage to provide us with your preferred e-mail address. Each eBlast includes a link where you can easily unsubscribe as well.
3. The **Woodridge Eagle** (this publication) will be printed quarterly this year and a paper copy will be distributed to all families through Monday packets. The PDF file will also be available online at our website.
4. The Woodridge Elementary PTSA is on **Facebook**. Join our Facebook community to receive updates through your Facebook account.

We welcome your feedback! Contact us at WoodridgePTSAinfo@gmail.com.

The Woodridge PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association) is an all-volunteer group that helps to promote an environment for all children at Woodridge Elementary that supports their education and encourages a sense of community, personal growth, safety, positive values and open communication.

Focus on... UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Games Night: Wednesday October 26th

Join us in the cafeteria and gym for a FREE family games night from 6:30-8:00pm. Staff from Blue Highway Games on Queen Anne will set up tables with fun and educational board games appropriate for the math and reading skills of elementary-aged kids. You and your family can wander "open house" style and learn to play whatever games capture your interest. All games will be available for purchase from Blue Highway Games after the event, with a portion of the proceeds going to Woodridge PTSA.

Picture Day Retakes: Friday November 4th

If your child missed picture day in September OR you would like to take a new photo for any reason, please mark your calendar! New order envelopes will be available soon.

Reflections Art Program 2011-12: "Diversity Means..."

Show us your artwork! We encourage all students to participate in this nationwide art program that encourages children to express their individual artistic interpretation.

Program details are available at the Reflections page on the PTSA website: <http://www.woodridgepts.org/reflections-2011-2012.html>

Questions? Contact Trina Nguyen at trinatn@hotmail.com or Brigid Dupar at brigidana@gmail.com for more information.

November 14, 2011 is the deadline for artwork and entry forms.

Inside this issue:

@ Your Library	2
New Bullying Curriculum	3
Auction April 28th	3
Internet for Low Income Families	3
Calendar	4
Volunteer Opportunities	4
Acknowledgements	4

@ your library from your librarian, Linda Peterson

“I am a reader!” Note the exclamation point that shows excitement about how I feel about reading. Being able to read has opened up wondrous new worlds for me, transported me to places I hope to sometime visit, and helps me to survive in this information age. Reading has made me a lifelong learner! At Woodridge, we all hope that every student will be able to enthusiastically say that they are readers also!

We would love to create a “community of readers” in which students “read well, read often, and enjoy reading”. In the article “Creating a Community of Readers” there are five important components to a reading community:

- Reading is considered valuable by most, if not all, school community members.
- It (the goal of everybody a reader) is attainable by all students.
- It is achieved through learning, including learning at home as well as learning at school.
- It is applicable to all curricular areas of the school programs rather than to specific areas, and
- It is achieved through the combined efforts of the students, parents and teachers



(Read the full article at: <http://www.adi.org/journal/ss01/chapters/Chapter23-Baker&Moss.PDF>)

Learning to read at Woodridge crosses all areas of our curriculum: math, social studies, science, art and PE. Opportunities for students to not just read alone include **literature circles, reading buddies, partner reading and sharing book reviews** to the wider community on teacher websites and hallway bulletin boards.

At your library, there are many activities that encourage students to become “book loving little people”. Many of our lessons include discussions about what is good/bad about a book, virtues displayed and the author’s message. These books are read aloud, so all students are able to join in discussion regardless of their reading level.

We have two **student/parent book clubs** which let students view their parents as part of our reading community, in the role of a bookclub member. Hearing parents discuss books is an awesome experience for our students. This year we have 42 girls, 22 boys and their parents enjoying books together. We are thankful to our PTSA for the funding to purchase or supplement book sets each year.

As part of the **Global Reading Program** sponsored by King County Library, we have 56 students on 7 teams reading books as a team and then challenging the other teams to become the Woodridge grand champion. This group meets once a week during lunch until the competition in February.

There are also four book award programs that students can participate in. The **Sasquatch and Young Reader’s Choice** programs encourage 4th and 5th graders to read books of different genres. In the spring, they are able to vote for their favorite if they have read a certain number of books. 3rd graders will soon find out about the **Beverly Cleary Award**, a new program this year. Our youngest students are involved in the **Washington Children’s Choice** award.

Because of the monetary support of our Principal and PTSA our library is filled with a variety of great books that students want to read and titles the staff and I think they need to read! The collection is constantly being updated and I take student recommendations seriously! Students are encouraged to come in often and browse the shelves for a good read. I am also available for giving suggestions. Nothing makes my day more than a student who stops by just to say—“you know that book you recommended—it is great! I’m going to tell my friends about it.”

A reading community at Woodridge—a place where students, teachers, and parents read well, read often and love reading!

New Bullying Prevention and Social Skills Curriculum

Respect. Courage. Compassion.

This year they're being taught alongside math, history and science in your child's classroom. The Bellevue School District has launched a new district-wide initiative aimed at preventing bullying in our schools, because every student deserves to learn in a safe and civil school environment.

The District, in partnership with the Bellevue PTSA Council, invites you to attend an upcoming Bullying Prevention Information Night. Come learn about the new Bullying Prevention and Social Skills curriculum in your child's classroom. Discover strategies for reinforcing those lessons at home. Share stories and talk with other parents about the impact of bullying, and how we can work together to stop it in its tracks!

Please plan to attend one of three Bullying Prevention Information Nights during the 2011-2012 school year:

- Tuesday, October 11 at 5 pm – Newport High School
- Tuesday, January 24 at 5 pm – Sammamish High School
- Wednesday, March 21 at 5 pm – Interlake High School

More details about the Bullying Prevention Information Nights will be posted at the Bellevue School District website: www.bsd405.org. If you have questions, please email CommunityRelations@bsd405.org.

Auction, Auction, Auction!

The Woodridge auction is scheduled for April 28th 2012 and we are getting ready to start the fun. The auction is one of Woodridge PTSA's biggest events, and helps raise funds that go toward enriching every Woodridge student's education.

The committee is starting to come together and there are plenty of jobs big and small to be filled. We have a chair (Rosemary Caird) who would love a co-chair to partner with! Please let her know if you are interested.

Would you like to help find business donations? Would you like to just share donation ideas? Now is the time to help! Julie Baker is coordinating business procurement and will need a team of 10 people to help acquire donations in the next two months and would love to hear from you.

There is an opportunity for all Woodridge families to help procure and/or donate to the auction! Please check your childrens' backpacks on Mondays in the coming weeks for procurement letters: one to give to your favorite business and one for your family/friends.

If you have any ideas on venue, theme, entertainment or anything - we would love to hear from you! If you have a special skill or talent that would help with the auction (big or small!) please let us know.

Contact: Rosemary Caird: rosemarycaird@gmail.com or 206-617-5878

Julie Baker: julieb20@gmail.com

Check for auction updates at <http://www.woodridgeptsa.org/auction.html>

Low Cost Internet for Low Income Families

If you have at least one child receiving free school lunches from Woodridge, your family may qualify for a new program provided by Comcast called Internet Essentials. According to Comcast, Internet Essentials costs just \$9.95 per month (plus tax). For participating families, there are no price increases, activation fees or equipment rental fees. In addition, you can buy a low cost computer for \$149.99 (plus tax) and receive free Internet training.

If you are interested in finding out more about this program, call Comcast toll free at 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376). Or for more information, you can go to InternetEssentials.com. Note that Internet Essentials is a Comcast program to provide home Internet service for families. It is not a school program, and is not endorsed or required by Woodridge or the Woodridge PTSA.

PTSA Calendar: Fall 2011

For details and up-to-date information, visit our website: www.woodridgePTSA.org

October 2011

- 7th Family Movie Night: Toy Story 7-8:30pm
- 10th Charleston Wrap kick off
- 12th Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day
- 20th PTSA Board Meeting 4pm
- 26th Family Games Night 6:30 - 8:00pm
- 27th Virtues Assembly 2:30pm

November 2011

- 4th Picture Day Retakes
- 9th Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day
- 10th Conference Day - no school
- 11th Veteran's Day - no school
- 17th Virtues Assembly 2:30
PTSA Board Meeting 4pm
- 24th - 25th Thanksgiving - no school



December 2011

- 1st Bellevue Art and Frame Fundraiser
- 14th Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day
- 15th PTSA Board Meeting 4pm
Virtues Assembly 2:30pm
- 19th Winter Break begins

Volunteer Opportunities

Lunch Servers

Due to a change in the lunch schedule this year, the school is urgently in need of 2 adult volunteers to serve lunch each day.

Hours: 11:40 to 12:55 M, T, TH, F 11:25 to 12:40 Wed.

If every Woodridge family committed to help once in the school year, we would have more than enough volunteers. Sign up to do this once this year, once each month, once each week... Anything you can do will be appreciated! The more help we have, the faster the kids can get through the lunch line and the more time they have to eat. For more information, please contact Kelly Yamaura in the school office: yamaurak@bsd405.org or 425-456-6200. You can also sign up for a shift online at the Volunteer section of the PTSA website: <http://www.woodridgeptsa.org/upcoming-opportunities.html>

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Days

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month is Teacher & Staff Appreciation Day! Please mark your calendar! Below is how you and your family can participate.

Oct 12th Morning Mentor Treat

Please send baked goods: scones, muffins, bagels, etc. Tuesday the 11th or the morning of the 12th. Fruit or other morning snacks are also welcomed. Contact Karen Skalski at karen4ski@q.com to advise what you can contribute.

Nov 9th Notes of Appreciation

This can be a family and/or student affair. Please send a message to a teacher or staff member of your choice; multiple notes are welcome. It can be a note, a signed drawing, a card, a poem, a story... Any kind note is appropriate.

Family Games Night

Do you love games? We need 12-16 volunteers to help at Games Night on October 26th. Volunteers will learn a game, then help teach it to others during the event. Please contact Cathy Smith at cathydavissmith@gmail.com or Lisa Echigoshima at lisaechigoshima@yahoo.com for more information.

Thanks to all those who have volunteered their time so far this year!! Special thanks to...

All those who have been volunteering in the lunch room over the past month!

Jeff Tangney for organizing our Spiritwear sales throughout the year

Carrie Browne for organizing First Day packets 9/6 and Monday packets throughout the year

Natalie Littrell for organizing the Welcome Back to Woodridge coffee 9/6 and Chess Club throughout the year

Patty Montgomery and **Deanne Hayes** for organizing the Ice Cream Social 9/16

Tracy Mahoney for organizing hearing and vision screening and emergency supplies throughout the year

Brigid Dupar for co-chairing the emergency preparedness committee

Cristy Livingston and **Jaye Friedman** for coordinating picture day 9/22 and 9/23

Lisa Echigoshima for chairing the Entertainment Book fundraiser

Deanne Hayes and **Mary Hamshou** for their work on membership and the PTSA directory

All our room parents, and **Karen Skalski** for organizing this group

All our library volunteers, and **Kristen Lane** for organizing this group

Karen Skalski and **Leah Silver** for organizing teacher/staff appreciation days throughout the year

Trina Nguyen and **Brigid Dupar** for co-chairing this year's Reflections program for Woodridge



Become a member! Together we make a difference!

The Woodridge Elementary PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) is an all-volunteer group that helps to promote an environment for all children at Woodridge Elementary that supports their education and encourages a sense of community, personal growth, safety, positive values and open communication. You can join any time.

Please support the PTSA by becoming a member. Together we can make a difference!

\$26 per couple, \$16 per individual. Membership forms available at: <http://www.woodridgeptsa.org/forms.html>