

The Wood Word

January 2009
www.woodpta.org



For the most current
Calendar of Events,
please check out our
website:

www.woodpta.org

Upcoming Events

- Jan 26th - No School - Professional Day
- Jan 28th - 7:00pm Seminar about Maryland College Savings Plans
- Feb 3rd - Report cards distributed
- Feb 10th - 7:00pm PTA Meeting on MSA & HSA Testing
- Feb 12th - 3:00 - 5:00pm - School Improvement Plan Meeting
- Feb 16th - No School - President's Day
- Feb 27th - Early Dismissal

A Monthly Publication of the Earle B. Wood MS Parent Teacher Association

President's News

1. **School Improvement Plan Meeting:** Discuss ways to improve The School Academics on February 12 at Wood MS from 3:00-5:00pm. All parents are welcome to attend!

2. MCPS has a show called **Cover To Cover**. It is currently featuring Wood MS from January 12 through March. It can be seen on Comcast 34, Verizon 36 or RC 89. It will air every Monday and Friday at 10:00am; 2:00pm; or 6:00pm or 10:00pm. Take a few minutes and watch us at our best!

3. Special Presentation for our March Meeting on Gang Awareness; Internet Safety and Child ID Kit with fingerprinting for your students.

4. Watch for more fundraising greatly needed for Cultural Arts and Morning Announcement/Show Equipment.

From the PTA and its Hospital Team: Colleen Anderson, Susan Keady, Amy Hartley: Thank you to all of the parents who contributed so generously to the holiday gift for Wood staff members. Each staff member received a nice Caribou Coffee travel mug with chocolates and other candies, as well as coupons to Caribou Coffee, Quiznos, and Dunkin Donuts.

Our thanks to these vendors, as well as the Rock Creek Valley Safeway on Norbeck Road for their contributions. Thank you, especially, to Liz Novatny, Mary Morella and Jessica Flavell for their assistance. For those who offered and whose help was not needed - many thanks - we'll catch you next time!

Please join us once a month for a Free Parent Information Session at each PTA Meeting in Wood's Media Center: 7:00-8:15pm

February 10: How to study for MSA & HSA Testing; What does it mean? All 8th Grade Parents should attend!

March 10: Child Safety; Gang Awareness; Internet Safety

April 14: Summer Resources/PTA Nominations for next year

May 12: Academic Updates for next school year

June 9: Welcome new PTA Officers; Board and Committee Members

A special thank you to Caribou Coffee (Bauer) and Dunkin Donuts (Aspen Hill) for their generous donations to our monthly meetings! Next time you are

Easy Ways to Raise Money for Wood Middle School

BOX TOPS!

If every Wood Student brought in 20 box tops per month it would give the PTA \$1,600 per month to spend on the Cultural Arts Program. If they brought only 10 box tops, we'd get \$800.

For February, March, April, and May, if every student brought in 20 box tops per month, Wood MS would make \$6,400.

SURF ONLINE OFTEN?

Use www.GoodSearch.com and enter Earle B. Wood as the recipient. It's another easy way to raise a few more dollars for our school!

Morning Announcement Highlights

Auditions for the spring musical production of **Annie** will start next Tuesday after school in room 204 and will continue all week if necessary. Come prepared to sing any song that you are comfortable with. Make sure it is in your vocal range. ALL roles are open to eligible students. Any questions? See Mr. Grant or Mr. Tobiassen.

All 6th and 7th graders who are NOT currently playing in band or orchestra. It's not too late to pick back up your instrument or try a new one!

You will be signing up for next years classes very soon and when it comes to band and orchestra, we always say **THE MORE THE MERRIER!**

It's never to late to join chorus! Contact Mr. Johnson or Ms Ehrenspeck for more details about next years classes.

Kudos to those students for their hard work in the Geography Bee.

Congratulate Robert Hackman who won the Wood Geography Bee, Joy Curtis who came in 2nd place, and Carlos Soto who finished in 3rd place.

Montgomery County National College Fair

April 15 9:45am - 12:45pm
and 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
April 16 9:45 am - 12:30 pm
at the Montgomery County
Agricultural Center in
Gaithersburg.

Free and open to the public.

More information, visit the
NACAC Web site at
www.nationalcollegefairs.org.

GREEN TIP

The Facts: While water is a healthy drink choice (i.e., compared to beverages loaded with sugar, caffeine, etc.) plastic bottled water has a few hidden costs that are important to consider. According to the Earth Policy Institute, it takes 1.5 million barrels of oil to produce and transport all the bottled water that U.S. consumes. And, while some bottles do make it into the recycling process, our waste stream (and many real streams!) are full of plastic bottles that then are added to the landfill or in the case of Montgomery County, they get incinerated! In many cases using tap water to quench our thirst is a great way to save money and resources...just make sure to use a safe container for the water. In September, 2008 the National Toxicology Program concluded that bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical used in many polycarbonate plastics, poses "some concern" for effects on development of the prostate gland and brain and for behavior effects in fetuses, infants and children. So, when choosing a reusable water bottle just try to select one made from either BPA free plastics, stainless steel or aluminum with liners or ceramic coatings.

The Tip: Reduce the use of plastic bottled water. Use reusable water bottles!

National Toxicology Program (information on BPA)

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/releases/2008/bisphenol-a.cfm>

For information on bottled water versus tap water:

Natural Resources Defense Council

<http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp>

Reusable water bottle sources (Note: This is not intended to be an exhaustive list and some local stores also sell reusable water bottles.):

SIGG <http://www.mysigg.com/>

Nalgene (BPA free water bottles) <http://www.nalgenechoice.com/index.html>

Klean Kanteen <http://www.kleankanteen.com/>

HOMEWORK CAFE

Homework Club meets every Wednesday 2:40-4:15 in the cafeteria. All students are encouraged to attend. Healthy snacks provided. Teachers or tutors available to help in all subjects for students who need extra help.

We need parent volunteers and high school students to assist in keeping the students studying, focused and on track, and/or help with refreshments. If you can only help one Wednesday per month, that is fine. Students will earn merits for their help. Please contact Andrea Krupinski @ 301-871-4669.

AND WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU IN MATH IF YOU NEED IT

Tuesdays, Room 284: Algebra and Honors Geometry with Mrs. Eising
Thursdays, Room 235: IM, Algebra and Honors Geometry with Mr. Cunningham

ScienceMONTGOMERY

Celebrating its 53rd year, March 20-22, 2009 at the Record Armory building at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus.

Registration Deadline is February 13, 2009 @ 5:00pm

For more info visit: www.ScienceMONTGOMERY.org