

Underwood Elementary



OCTOBER 2014

Mark Your Calendars...

Fall Garden Work Day

Saturday, October 4, 8-11 a.m.

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2:30 p.m.

Unicorn Trot

Friday, November 7

Book Fair

December 1-5

Winter Carnival

Friday, January 30



Dear Friends,

The first month of school has flown by, and so much has happened in that short period of time: Meet the Teacher days, first days of school, standardized testing, Welcome Back Picnic, first Spirit Dinner, Open House, Math Night, etc. We've conducted regular beginning-of-school work such as our first PTA meeting, PTA membership drive, t-shirt sales, school directory info gathering, our Phantom and Go-Play-Save fundraiser campaigns, and the first mentions of PTA Reflections and Unicorn Trot. That's a lot for anyone to keep up with!

Everything is moving ahead, and you will continue to get info and reminders on all that the PTA, administration and teachers have planned via Tuesday folders and MemberHub.

Please remember we invite everyone to join and be active in the PTA. PTA connects families and schools. By joining PTA, you show your children that school matters, and that you are invested in their success. Three decades of research proves that students achieve higher grades, have better attendance, and more consistently complete homework when parents are involved – and just the act of joining PTA is a great way to get involved. Please don't hesitate to contact anyone on the PTA board with questions. You can obtain a membership application in the front office at school or by contacting Jessica Tishner, Membership Chair, at bugo626@yahoo.com.

Thanks for all you do to make Underwood a great place to be.

Beth Hardison, PTA President
bethhardison@gmail.com



Still Time for Underwood T-shirts

The PTA has been overwhelmed with the response from the new Underwood t-shirts. We have restocked our inventory.

Email **Shannon Tant** (sotant@bellsouth.net) or **Anne Wein** (awein761@gmail.com) to place an order. Underwood t-shirts and sweatshirts make great Christmas gifts!

Underwood's 2014 Pansy Sale

Purchase your annuals and support the Underwood PTA! Pure Yellow, True Blue, and Blotch Mix Pansies are available by the flat for pick up at Underwood on October 9, 3-4 p.m. If you are interested in more varieties, Pansy-Plus Certificates are also available so you can make your own selection at Campbell Road Nursery from October 7-19.

Order online now at tinyurl.com/Pansy2014.
Orders must be placed by October 3 at 5 p.m.

Fall Garden Work Day Saturday, October 4, 8-11 a.m.

Come out and join parents, students and staff as we work together in our garden space! We'll be cleaning up, pulling weeds, spreading mulch, planting pansies and more to prepare our fall/winter garden.

If there is enough participation, we may be able to start on other exciting projects, including a new compost system and wall planters. Work days happen twice a year so don't miss the fun!

Drop-ins are welcome, but please help us plan by signing up at tinyurl.com/uwgardencleanup if possible. For more information, contact Amy Gilbert at amy@voxmea.net.

Save the Dates - Spirit Night Dinners!

Join Underwood families and friends for dinner while helping support the Underwood PTA. A portion of each night's sales will be donated to our PTA.

- **October 16, 4-8 p.m.**, at Chick-fil-A at Cameron Village
- **November 13, 4-9 p.m.**, at Elevation Burger at Brier Creek Commons

Unicornia Store

The Unicornia Store will be open Wednesday, October 8 from 8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Please send money with your child if they wish to purchase school supplies, Underwood t-shirts, car magnets and more. Prices range from \$.50 to \$20 for sweatshirts. The store will be located outside in front of the school on October 8.

Explore the Arts, Participate in PTA Reflections

This year's theme is:
"The world would be a better place if..."

Create an original work and submit it by November 3. Categories are: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. All children who enter will be honored in the spring with a breakfast, medal and gallery exhibit for families.

For more information go to:
Wakepta.org/reflections-program/
or contact Lauren Mann, Reflections Chair, at laurenmann@bellsouth.net.

Walk to School Day

Wednesday, October 8

The Underwood Elementary Wellness Committee encourages kids and parents to participate in International Walk to School Day on October 8. The first 100 kids walking to school will receive a special gift bag and a great start to the day!

Parents should walk with their students from their homes where possible. They may also park-n-walk from surrounding neighborhood streets or the Hayes Barton Baptist Church lot.

To help, email Lauren Blackburn at lakblackburn@yahoo.com.



Tips for a safe and fun walk:

1. Scope out your walking route ahead of time to plan for travel time and safety.
2. Always cross at crosswalks or intersections, and follow side walks or low-traffic streets.
3. If you cross busy roads on your route, look for crossing guards to assist with traffic.
4. Park-n-walkers should park at least a couple blocks away from the school to reduce traffic impact. Park right wheel to curb, and don't block driveways or fire zones.
5. Tell your child's teacher and bus driver about any travel changes to or from school on October 8.
6. Arrive at the school by 9 a.m. to sign in and receive your gift bag.
7. Sign-in at tables near the main entrance to the school.
8. Have fun! Plan a "walking school bus" with your friends.



The Unicorn Trot

Friday, November 7 (early release day)

Underwood's largest student-led fundraiser is one of the students' favorite days of the year. They run as many laps on the track as they can in a given period of time and enjoy getting physical while listening to the school's favorite D.J., Mrs. Glenn. Prior to the Trot, students gather per lap pledges or donations from family, friends and neighbors to sponsor the student. Last year's Unicorn Trot made over \$16,000. This year's goal is \$15,000. Pledge cards will come home on Tuesday, October 14. Please be on the lookout on MemberHub for volunteer opportunities to support your students' favorite school day! For questions, please contact Unicorn Trot co-chairs Michelle Jacobs (michelle.jacobs@earthlink.net) or Karen Poteat (karensmail@mindspring.com).

Recycle Ink Cartridges, Raise Money for Underwood



Check your home and business offices for ink cartridges and help turn trash into cash for our school! Through a new partnership with Dazz Recycling, Underwood can earn money by collecting empty, old, or new ink cartridges.

Drop off cartridges any time you are on campus in the designated collection box, located in the Media Center. Please group like, approved cartridges in plastic baggies (provided as needed). A list of approved cartridges is on the collection box.

For more information, contact Kerry Hazen at khazen@nc.rr.com or Andrea Trowell at atrowell@wcpss.net.

Did You Know...

Linking your rewards cards to Underwood Elementary and collecting food labels raises over \$4,700 for the PTA each year!

It's Time for the Food Labels Contest!

Do you have Box Tops, Labels for Education, Tyson A+ Labels or MyCoke Rewards sitting around your house or hiding somewhere? Maybe you have some in your pantry just waiting to be clipped? Well, what are you waiting for?

Please send them with your child to their classroom before October 22!

Help Underwood and have a chance to win cool prizes! The K-2nd and 3rd-5th grade classes with the most food labels collected will earn classroom rewards and extra recess time. The top earning student in each category will win a personalized yearbook!

Send labels in a bag with your child's name, teacher and grade. Give them to your teacher or place them in the Campbell's collection bin at the front entrance.



Re-link Your Shopping Rewards Cards

- **Harris Teeter Vic Card: 2241**
- **Target Take Charge of Education Red Card: 81098**
- **Kroger: see bar code on contest flyer**
- **New! Shoparoo: download free app and take a picture of any shopping receipts.**

For more information on Food Labels or Shopping Rewards, please see the contest flyer that was sent home or contact Brynna Bailey at brynna.c.bailey@gsk.com or 919-601-8807.



Backpack Buddies Need YOU!



The Underwood Backpack Buddies program provides weekend meals to 20 food-insecure students every Friday during the school year, using a six-week menu rotation designed to ensure variety and balanced nutrition.

Volunteers are needed to provide food items from the weekly, online shopping list and drop them off at school. Contributions can be left in the Backpack Buddies bin in the school lobby or handed to staff during morning carpool on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. (Please only drop off food items that you have signed up for on the shopping list!)

To learn more program details and access the online shopping list:

- Login to Underwood MemberHub group
- From your dashboard, click Join Open Hubs and choose Backpack Buddies
- From the BB Files page, download and read BB-food-rules 2014-15.pdf

Volunteers who can give 30-45 minutes on Friday mornings to pack and deliver meal bags are also needed. Please contact Jeanne Maher at jeanne.maher@yahoo.com for more information.

This newsletter is published monthly. Please fill out a communications request at <http://bit.ly/PTAcommrequest> by the 20th of the month if you have something you would like included in the next newsletter. For questions, contact co-editors Julia Fellers-Green at jrfellers@gmail.com or Amme Fleming at ammeffleming@gmail.com.



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