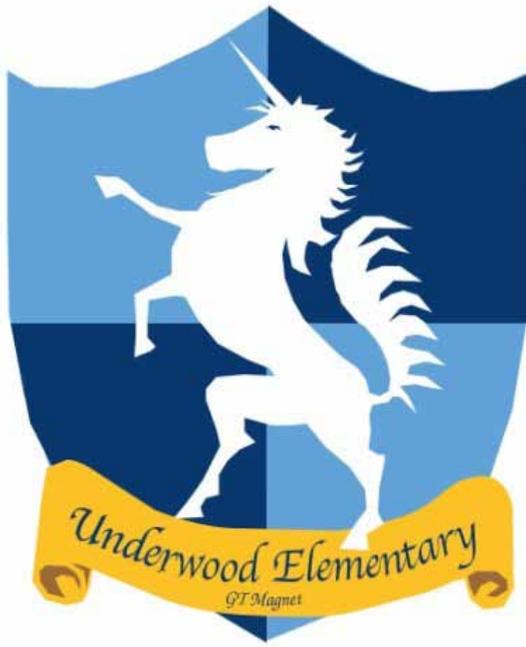


# Underwood Elementary



DECEMBER 2014

## Mark Your Calendars...

### Winter Break

December 22-January 2

### PTA Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2:30 p.m.

### Winter Carnival

Saturday, January 31, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.



## Winter Carnival

Mark your calendars for the Underwood Winter Carnival on **Saturday, January 31 from 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.**! The PTA heard you loud and clear. A Saturday carnival is what two-thirds of the 100 poll responders said they'd prefer, so the decision was made.

This year, we're adding more inflatables and reorganizing the carnival layout to hopefully decrease congestion. We're adding some fun new things such as a food truck rodeo, fairy hair, balloon animals, fortune telling, photo booth and teacher pie toss. We're also doing a raffle and silent auction with more amazing teacher experiences that students can bid on with their favorite teachers.

The PTA needs many more volunteers to plan the Winter Carnival fundraiser. We especially need some strong dads since this event requires a lot of moving and lifting traditionally.

Please email Gena Bancroft ([gmbancroft@gmail.com](mailto:gmbancroft@gmail.com)) if you can help serve on the Winter Carnival committee or a sub-committee. It's a great way to get involved in PTA. We are also looking for donations for the raffle.

The goal for the Winter Carnival is to raise \$10,000 through ticket sales, raffle and silent auction proceeds, food sales, etc. The money raised supports cultural arts, Science Olympiad, our buildings and grounds, leadership and conscious discipline education, hospitality for teachers, PTA wellness initiatives, etc.

If we're successful raising \$10,000, Dr. Jordan has agreed the students can **TAPE HER TO THE WALL!**



# Unicorn Trot Success!



**A** big thank you and congratulations to the Underwood community! Thanks to the generous support of Underwood families, friends and businesses, the 7th Annual Unicorn Trot was a great success!

Thanks to Underwood parents, families, friends and businesses for helping Underwood reach the fundraising goal of \$15,000 and for providing fantastic new Unicorn Trot t-shirts for students and staff! All money raised helps Underwood students and staff by supporting and enriching our academic, cultural and technology programs, enhancing our positive behavior (PBS) program, and improving our school's building and grounds.



## Look at what we accomplished...

- 672 miles run on Friday morning during the Unicorn Trot!
- \$15,000 in Student Sponsorships!
- \$4000+ in Business Sponsorships, providing 615 t-shirts for students and staff!

## Chirp Chirp, A Little Cricket Told Me.

In a most clever residency, fifth grade students worked with Underwood teacher Karen Fichter-Venners and writer Suzie Wilde to explore concepts of literature and science together. During five separate meetings, Mrs. Fichter-Venners and Ms. Wilde guided students through a series of investigations involving story development (writing) and eco-systems (science). Students used observation and questioning strategies as they developed the story of Chirp, a cricket with a unique ability. Ask any fifth grader to discover all the details. Additional information may be found by visiting Suzie's website: [ignitingwriting.com](http://ignitingwriting.com). Be sure to check out her blogs section. Many thanks to our PTA for fully funding this program.

## Science Olympiad

There is still time to participate in the 2015 Science Olympiad. Third through fifth graders meet two Saturday mornings each month with a tournament on April 11, 2015. Our kickoff session is Saturday, December 6th at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria. We will meet Saturday, December 13th, then resume meeting after the holidays on January 10th.

[www.sciencenc.com/events.php#a](http://www.sciencenc.com/events.php#a)

Contact Steve Hess at [hessfamilyfour@gmail.com](mailto:hessfamilyfour@gmail.com) or 919-600-3435 with questions.

## Cat Tilt Studio & Parvati's Mirror

Be sure to check out these two local businesses offering ways to try out their services while helping Underwood! Continuing on Mondays in December, Cat Tilt Studio will donate 50% of their profits from yoga classes to the Underwood PTA. Parvati's Mirror will donate 25% of all gift card sales for the months of November and December.



## Birdman Dave at Underwood!

On November 14th, the Cultural Arts Committee and PTA welcomed Birdman Dave to Underwood. Dave Gulick and his amazing birds have been offering educational programs that blend art and nature for over 30 years.

He presented his Amazing Birds program to K-2 students and an Amazon Rainforest Adventure to students in grades 3-5. Parents may visit [www.birdmandave.com](http://www.birdmandave.com) for more information.



# Mark your calendars for Winter **FUN**draising!

- Tuesday, January 6, 2015 Skating party with characters from FROZEN at United Skates of America. Admission is \$3 and all proceeds benefit the PTA.
- Thursday, February 5, 2015 Spirit Night Dinner at MOE'S North Hills and Falls Village Locations
- Monday, February 23, 2015 Spirit Night Dinner "Dough Night" at Donatos Pizza and Subs at Seaboard Station

Please contact Catherine Finch at [cfinch@alumni.wfu.edu](mailto:cfinch@alumni.wfu.edu) for more information.

## Don't forget... Underwood Recycles Printer Cartridges!



Just a reminder as you are doing your holiday printing that Underwood gets cash in exchange for printer cartridges! There is a collection bin in the library where you or your child can place the cartridges. Once the bin is full, we recycle them and turn "trash into cash". It's as easy as that!

If you have questions please contact Andrea Trowell ([atrowell@wcpss.net](mailto:atrowell@wcpss.net)) or Kerry Hazen ([khazen@nc.rr.com](mailto:khazen@nc.rr.com)). Hope you will consider participating.

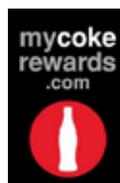
## Congratulations to Our Winners from the Food Labels Fall Contest!

The top earning students are Liam Maher (K-2 grades) with 292 points and Victoria Adams (3-5 grades) with 201 points! Both winners will receive personalized yearbooks as prizes.

The top earning classes are Mrs. Williams (K-2 grades) with 522 total points and Mrs. Peaden (3-5 grades) with 463 total points! Both classrooms will receive extra recess time and the teachers will receive points to shop the Labels for Education merchandise catalog!

We collected 3779 Box Tops, 5269 Labels for Education and 77 MyCoke Rewards! Please continue collecting food labels for the next contest in spring and remember to shop at participating stores to earn rewards for our school.

THANK YOU for your support!  
Please contact Brynna at [brynnacbailey@gmail.com](mailto:brynnacbailey@gmail.com) with any questions.



## Backpack Buddies Update

I am so thankful for you! Through your generosity and kindness, we were able to provide our 12 Backpack Buddies families with Thanksgiving meals with all the trimmings. I want to say a special thank you to the eight BB volunteers who did all the shopping this year, giving me a much-needed break during a very busy time.

### BIG CHANGES!

We no longer collect food donations. We are losing our pantry! The school will be adding more computer servers that will require the corner of the computer room that we are currently using for food storage. This change requires us to go to a monetary donations-only system. Shopping for groceries will have to be done on a weekly basis.

How will raise the money each month? Check out our Ice Cream Party contest:

Are you up to the challenge?

*Your class could win an Ice Cream Party in June!*

**\$10 per week** is all it takes to provide a week-end of meals for one food-insecure student. If each family contributes what it can during its assigned contest month, we can reduce hunger in our own community for the whole school year!

Each month, December through May, all the classes in one grade will be tasked with collecting money for the Backpack Buddies program, beginning with the Kindergarten classes in December. The grade that raises the most money during its contest month will win an *Ice Cream Party in June!*

**Kindergarten Contest Collection Deadline is Friday, December 19, 2014.**

**Make checks payable to Underwood PTA with "Backpack Buddies" in the memo.**

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](mailto:jrfellers@gmail.com) or Amme Fleming at [ammeffleming@gmail.com](mailto:ammeffleming@gmail.com).



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