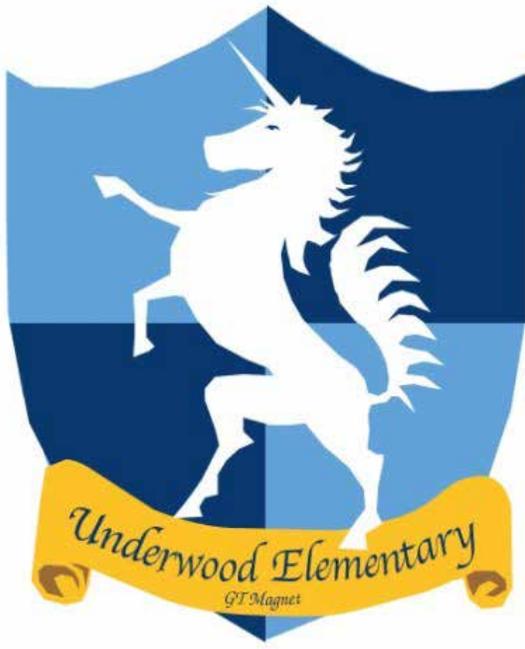


Underwood Elementary



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015

Mark Your Calendars...

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2:30 p.m.

Wellness Fair

Friday, March 20

Spring Break

March 23-27

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2:30 p.m.

Teacher Appreciation Week

April 13-17

New Family Open Houses

Tuesday, May 12, 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 14, 10:00 a.m.

Artspleasure

Thursday, May 21, 5-8 p.m.



Winter Carnival Raises the Roof!

Dear Underwood Families,

Thank you for making the Winter Carnival an overwhelming success. Because of our wonderful community, the PTA will be able to donate an additional \$4000 towards the purchase of new computers for student and teacher use as well as continue to fund all of the planned PTA programs. The newly-revamped, daytime carnival setting gave us the ability to try out some fun alternative game, activity and food options that were clearly enjoyed by many.

Here are some of the fun facts that exemplify what a generous community we have:

GAMES/ACTIVITIES EARNINGS

\$384 Emergency Room
\$634 Teacher/Staff Pie Toss
\$680 American Girl Doll & Nerf Gun Raffle
\$810 Bake Walk
\$1500 On-the-Town Gift Card Wall
\$2300 Inflatables & Climbing Wall
\$4300 Teacher Auction
\$4400 Silent Auction

VOLUNTEERS

50+ teachers & staff
75+ parents
60+ high school & college students

Please know that your time, gifts and talents are always appreciated and needed. The success of the carnival shows what we can do together and teaches our children what it means to be a member of a healthy community. Thank you so much for all you do for Underwood!

Thank you,
Your Underwood PTA

The Underwood Foundation: Update and Funding Focus



The creation of The Underwood Foundation brought exciting opportunities for supporting our school and the components of our school that make it so outstanding. Thank you so much to the Underwood Community for your support of this critical initiative.

Over the summer, Foundation Board members and school administration worked to determine how best to use Foundation dollars to meet those objectives. As enrollment continued to grow, we decided that directing dollars to keep our student to teacher ratio smaller was an obvious way to support our classroom teachers, our students, and the integrity of our program. An additional full-time teacher was added to the Underwood Faculty as a result of Foundation funding.

In the early fall, we revisited the budget and discussed additional support that could be provided. The Board approved the funding of two additional part-time staff members. A part-time teaching

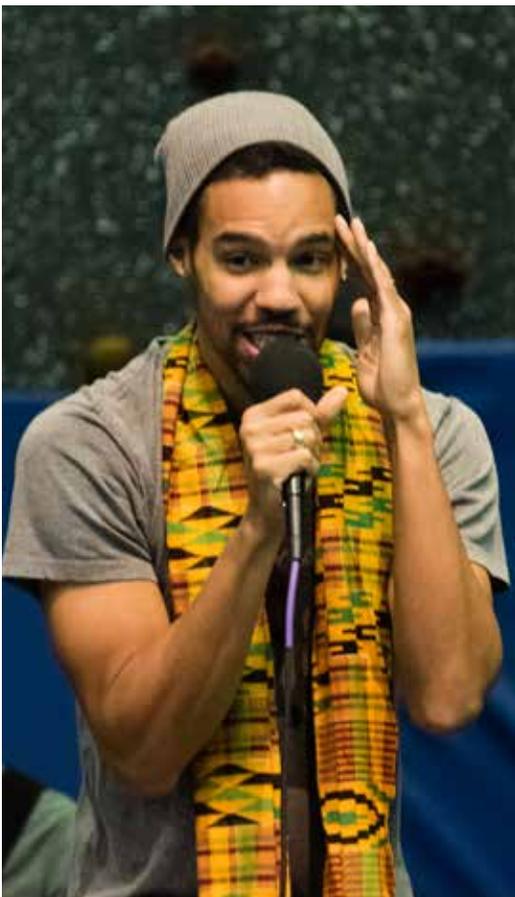
assistant was brought on board to support classroom teachers and our special education teachers. Again, this reduces the student to teacher ratio, increasing the amount of individual attention every child in our school can receive. It also assists our teachers in being able to fully implement their instructional plans.

The second position approved by the Board was for a part-time math coach. This coach would work with teachers to enhance their teaching of math by observing and giving feedback on our teachers' methods, co-teaching, providing workshops for teachers and parents, and developing other online tools to support the implementation of Common Core math. While there was a great deal of energy and enthusiasm for the position from parents and staff, unfortunately when the position was posted, we were unable to find a viable candidate. The team interviewed two strong leads, but neither was able to accept the position. We were faced with a difficult decision,

but in the end, decided that it would be better to hold on to the funding and wait for the right candidate, than spend the money on a candidate that might not match our expectations. Our plan is to revisit the issue after our spring fundraising efforts and hopefully find the right candidate over the summer when the applicant pool is more robust. The remaining funds will be applied to the 2015/16 initiatives to meet an already growing list of needs.

What is critical to know is that we take the decision to use your dollars very seriously. I know that your donations represent your trust in the Foundation and me. Our commitment is that we will be thoughtful and conservative with our spending. You need to know that your donations are making a tangible difference in our classrooms by adding more adults to help all our students. This helps keep our school strong now and in the future.

Jacqueline S. Jordan, Ed.D.
Principal



Underwood Gets Down with The Beast



On February 13, 2015, Underwood Elementary School welcomed Durham-based The Beast for two interactive performances.

Together Eric Hirsch, Stephen Coffman, Peter Kimosh, and Pierce Freelon featured the history of African American music through an imaginative and highly engaging show. The 45-minute program introduced students to the art of storytelling through spirituals, blues, jazz, and hip hop. Be sure to ask your child to sample scat music for you or if they remember the blues song created live on the spot by fellow students.

The Cultural Arts Committee thanks the band and our PTA for making this show possible. We also thank the Artists in the Schools program – a program supported by a grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, Inc. Additional support is provided by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

For more information or to view a video clip of the band, please visit their website at www.thebeastmusic.com

Wanted: Volunteers for 6th Annual Wellness Fair!

Planning is underway for Underwood's 6th Annual Wellness Fair to take place during the school day on March 20th! Students will enjoy nutrition and physical activity workshops in addition to performances by Black Box Dance Theatre. The Wellness Team is actively recruiting volunteer presenters from the community now. Please contact Amy Gilbert (amy@voxmea.net) if you have a wellness background and would like to present interactive and kid-friendly nutrition lessons to students and be a part of this fun day that promotes making healthy choices.

Spirit Night Coming Soon!

Come to Goodberry's in Cameron Village for a spirit night fundraiser on March 19, 2015, from 4-9 pm. Goodberry's will donate 30% of Underwood sales to the PTA.

Keep Those Printer Cartridges Coming In!

Underwood is recycling printer cartridges and turning your trash into cash. Last month we made over \$40 and kept a box and half of materials from entering the landfill. Great job and thanks to everyone who brought in cartridges! Let's keep them coming in!

Printer cartridges are collected in the Media Center. There is a white box under a podium that is on the left as you enter. All types of cartridges are accepted.

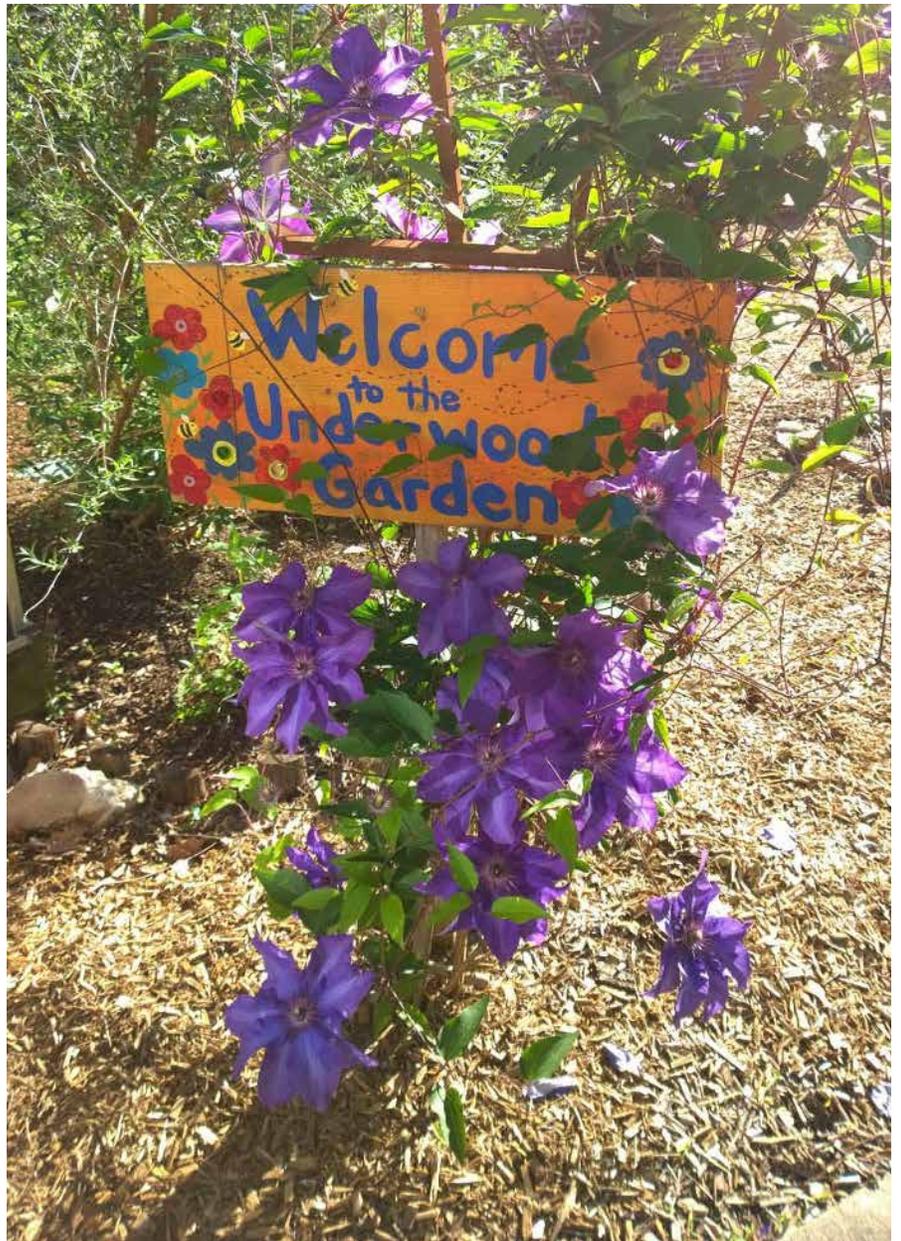
If you have questions please contact Kerry Hazen (khazen@nc.rr.com) or Andrea Trowell (atrowell@wcpss.net).

It's Food Labels Contest Time!

Please send in Food Labels this week by Friday, February 27th for a chance to win cool prizes and help Underwood! The K-2nd and 3rd-5th grade classes with the most food labels collected will enjoy a Popsicle Party! The top earning student in each category will win an awesome Underwood Spirit Pack!

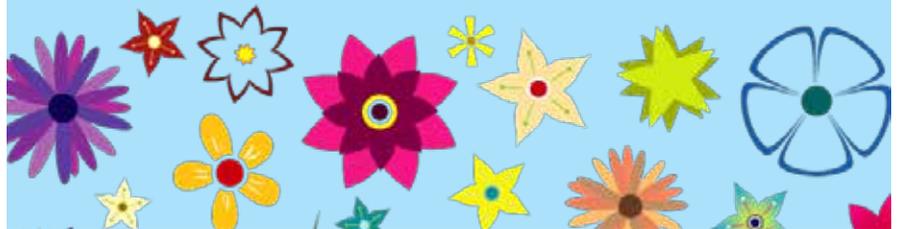
Please send labels in a bag or envelope with your child's name, teacher and grade. Provide them to your teacher or place them in the Campbell's collection bin at the school's front entrance.

Thank you!



Underwood Garden Grows

It will be time to get back out in the garden very soon! A new compost system is in the works, spring/summer plantings are quickly approaching, and other updates are planned for our garden this spring. Please contact Amy Gilbert (amy@voxmea.net) to get involved. Thanks for your support!



active kids learn better



physical activity at school is a win-win for students and teachers

GRADES:



20% more likely to earn an A in math or English.

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES:



increased 6% over 3 years

JUST ONE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE LESSON CREATES:

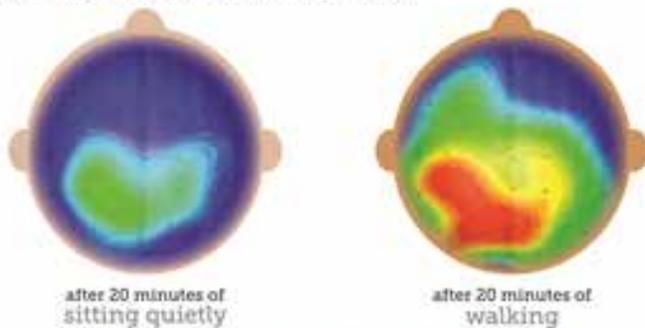


13% increase in students' physical activity for the week

21% decrease in teachers' time managing behavior

physically active kids have more active brains

BRAIN SCANS OF STUDENTS TAKING A TEST:



after 20 minutes of sitting quietly

after 20 minutes of walking

Red areas are very active; blue areas are least active.

MORE RESULTS:

after 20 minutes of physical activity: students tested better in reading, spelling & math and were more likely to read above their grade level

after being in a physically active afterschool program for 9 months: memory tasks improved 16%



SOURCES: Donnelly J.E. and Lambourne K. (2011). Classroom-based physical activity, cognition, and academic achievement. *Prev Med.* 52(Suppl 1):S36-S42. Hillman C.H. et al. (2009). The effect of acute treadmill walking on cognitive control and academic achievement in preadolescent children. *Neuroscience*. 159(3):1044-1054. Ramjo K. et al. (2011). The effects of an afterschool physical activity program on working memory in preadolescent children. *Dev Sci.* 14(5):1046-1058. Kibbe D.L. et al. (2011). Ten years of SHAPE UP: integrating physical activity with academic concepts in elementary school classrooms. *Prev Med.* 52(Suppl 1):S43-S50. Nelson M.C. and Gordon-Larsen P. (2008). Physical activity and sedentary behavior patterns are associated with selected adolescent health risk behaviors. *Pediatrics.* 117(4): 1281-1290.

activelivingresearch.org/blog/2015/01/infographic-active-kids-learn-better

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 questions regarding Food Labels or Shopping Rewards, please contact Brynna Bailey at brynnabailey@gmail.com or 919-601-8807.

Thank you for your support!



**Underwood GT
Elementary School**
1614 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27608

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.