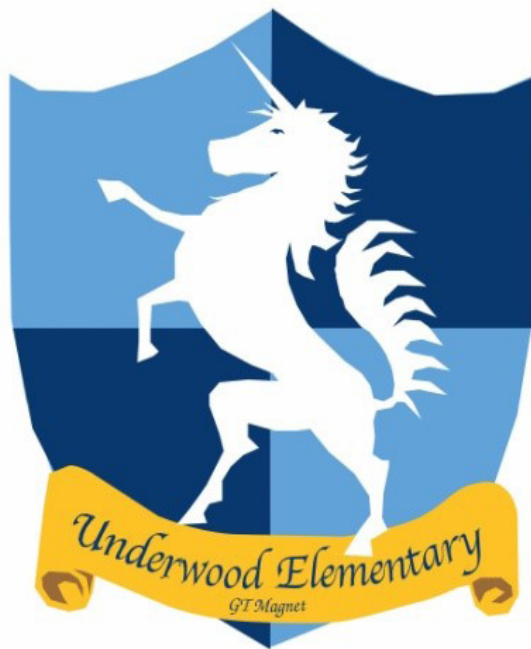


Underwood Elementary



JUNE 2015

Mark Your Calendars...

Artspleasure

Thursday, June 4, 5-8 p.m.

Last Day of School

Monday, June 8

Back to School

Monday, August 24

Mystery Performer at Artspleasure?

Donate your coins now, and we will all find out at 7:50 pm on June 4. A collection box is ready and waiting in the lobby. We need to raise \$200 or the performer will remain a MYSTERY.



PTA Elections

On Tuesday, May 12, at the final PTA meeting of the year, members voted on the proposed slate of officers for 2015-2016 who will take office on July 1. The elected officers are:

PTA Board

Anne Wein, President
Julia Fellers-Green, VP Communications
Julia Mastropaolo, VP Cultural Arts
Laura Urben, VP Cultural Arts
Beth Kittler, VP Fundraising
Allison Marsh, VP Fundraising - Unicorn Trot
Lisa Price, VP Fundraising - Unicorn Trot
Elizabeth Newman, VP Fundraising - Winter Carnival
Liz Wilkerson, VP Hospitality
Lissa Williamson, VP Hospitality
Kacey Grudem, VP Membership
Jennifer Gospadarek, VP MemberHub
Lauren Mann, VP Reflections
Alex Van Staveren, Secretary
Karen Poteat, Treasurer
Jeanne Maher, Assistant Treasurer
Gena Bancroft, Ex-Officio President

The Board also presented Beth Hardison with roses and a gift on behalf of the PTA and entire school to thank her for her excellent leadership and service this year as PTA President. If you see Beth, please thank her for all she has done for Underwood PTA.

Look what the PTA did this year!

It takes a lot of volunteer manpower to operate the PTA. Your support through joining the PTA, contributing to its fundraisers, volunteering your time and energy, is invaluable and directly affects each and every child at Underwood. With an operating budget of \$66,000 that is raised from a variety of sources, the Underwood PTA funds many things to help make our school better! Please contact Anne Wein, incoming PTA President, at awein761@gmail.com, if you'd like to join a committee or get more involved in PTA next year.

Did you know we did all of this?

August

- Provided a \$100 stipend for each teacher to spend on classroom supplies
- Sold newly designed Underwood t-shirts and sweatshirts at "back to school" events
- Welcomed returning students and new families at Meet the Teacher days
- Celebrated all teacher birthdays by providing each teacher with a card and a gift certificate to the Cupcake Shoppe and putting a birthday wreath on their door

September

- Hosted the Welcome Back Picnic and Open House (Wellness committee)
- Provided dinner to teachers on the night of the Open House (Hospitality committee)
- Provided lunch for teachers on early-release days (six in all) throughout year (Hospitality committee)
- Hosted Tissues and Tears for kindergarten parents
- Planned Spirit Dinner at Lilly's Pizza (Spirit Nights cumulatively raised over \$1,100)
- Sold GoPlaySave coupon books which raised \$6,000
- Organized Backpack Buddies to provide healthy meals for approximately 16-20 Underwood students each weekend all year
- Sponsored Reflections contest which resulted in 44 student entries in dance, music composition, literature, visual arts, and photography

October

- Held Spirit Dinner at Chick-fil-A Cameron Village and Spirit Event at Triangle Rock Climbing Club
- Organized "Walk to School" Day
- Coordinated a Garden Work Day to plant pansies and prepare beds for vegetable planting with classes
- Held Pansy sale which raised close to \$600
- Held Box Tops contests and encouraged parents to link their VIC cards and Target Red Cards. These merchant fundraisers raised almost \$3700

November

- Planned the Unicorn Trot Fun Run, an exciting day which celebrated fitness and raised \$16,000
- Cultural Arts presented Birdman Dave show on birds and the rainforest to all grades
- Featured Writer in Residence Suzie Wilde for the 5th grade for five weeks
- Hosted Spirit Night at Elevation Burger in Brier Creek
- Provided full dinner to 10 Backpack Buddies and their families at Thanksgiving
- Kicked off Science Saturdays in preparation for the Science Olympiad tournament

December

- Presented the Scholastic Book Fair at "Sir Readalot's Castle," which raised \$4500
- Hosted Moonlight Reading event with cookies and milk and Dads and Donuts event
- Provided Book Fair book purchase vouchers to families in need

January

- Hosted Family Skate Night at United Skates
- Sponsored visual arts residency for 2nd grade with artist and parent Traci Lorraine Farmer
- Presented a new and improved Winter Carnival on a Saturday that raised over \$17,000 and was a fun day for all with bounce houses, games, teacher pie toss, fairy hair, ER room and more

February

- Hosted Spirit Night at Moe's Falls Village and North Hills
- Hosted four Spirit Nights at Donato's (February - May)
- Presented "The Beast," a vocal performance of the history of African-American Music

March

- Hosted breakfast for new families accepted into Underwood for the 2015-2016 school year
- Hosted "Spotlight on Students" Breakfast
- Held a Reflections celebration breakfast honoring all student entries with a gallery show and awards presentation
- Sent nine teachers to NCTIES, a conference on improving the use of technology in the classroom
- Hosted Spirit Night at Goodberry's Cameron Village
- Hosted the Sixth Annual Wellness Fair where students worked in the garden, learned about nutrition, and tried yoga, zumba, hip hop dance, pilates and more. It also featured performances by the Black Box Dance Theater. (Wellness Committee)
- Organized "Tape Day" to duct tape Dr. Jordan to the Wall to celebrate the Winter Carnival success

April

- Hosted Michael Beadle from Kaboom Poetry as writer in residence for 4th Graders
- Hosted a Hollywood Themed Teacher Appreciation Week that made every teacher and staff person feel like a "star!"
- Supported three Underwood Science Olympiad Teams by purchasing equipment and the competition fee
- Sent four staff members to a two-day local Conscious Discipline conference

May

- Supported the Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) partnership kickoff and gallery opening showcasing the 2nd grade residency project with Traci Farmer
- Sold Legacy Bricks that will be permanently installed outside near the playground
- Presented sixth annual Artspleasure event, a celebration of the arts at Underwood
- Purchased new golf curriculum and equipment to be taught next year by the PE teacher
- Purchased 10 ipads for student use, ipad cart for 20 ipads, 6 laptops for student use, 1 laptop cart, 1 projector to replace damaged projector, and 2 Smartboard controllers to replace damaged controllers
- Mounted 3 projectors in classrooms
- Funded various online subscriptions for student use
- Purchased 500 library books (worth \$7,000) for the Media Center and school
- Provided support for PBIS initiatives throughout the year, including the Mentor Program after school events and PRIDE kids donation to two charities
- Sponsored one Teacher Assistant to get read to achieve certified and attend the North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants conference

June

- Sending 24 teachers and staff to a three-day retreat at the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores for a workshop led by Kim Hughes focused on Conscious Discipline
- Installing Legacy Bricks to be celebrated at the fall Welcome Back Picnic

Update Your Underwood MemberHub Info

Each year, when we are placing parents in the correct classroom hubs, we face a challenge because it can be difficult to know which parents and children are related. Underwood MemberHub has added new features that link parents with their children in Underwood MemberHub. Follow these simple instructions to update your family members, add any additional caregivers, and any information that may have changed in your profile.

Simply login to Underwood MemberHub. Click "profile".

Click "edit" to update your profile contact information. Click "edit family" to add family members to your account. After adding your family member, you can select "Adult" for adult family members, "Child" for children who attend Underwood and "Other" for other caregivers.

We would recommend that you not include the email addresses of your children. We will be using Underwood MemberHub as our directory next year which means the information in your profile will be available to all Underwood MemberHub users. While you need an account to access the information, anything you choose to make public to members will be available.

You may also choose to upload a picture of yourself to help other parents recognize you! These updates will help us keep you connected at Underwood.

Unicorn Trot 2015

The Unicorn Trot 2015 team is starting full speed ahead to plan the best Unicorn Trot ever! Mark your calendars for Friday, October 16 for Unicorn Trot 2015. We are looking for lots of volunteers to help with this big event. Please contact the Unicorn Trot Co-chairs, Allison Marsh (allisoncmarsch@yahoo.com) or Lisa Price (lvprice74@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

Trash for Cash

A big thank you to all who participated in the Ink Cartridge Recycling Program at Underwood this year! We were able to raise a significant amount of money for our school and keep lots of printer cartridges from entering the landfill. We do plan to continue the program next year so please save your printer cartridges over the summer. If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Hazen (khazen@nc.rr.com) or Andrea Trowell (ATrowell@wcpss.net).

Support Underwood through Artspleasure 2015

Thursday, June 4
5:00–8:00 pm



Join students in our elective classes as they share their gifts and talents. Presentations by the Unicorn Band, Tarheel Jr. Historians, Musical Theater, Glee, Dance Extravaganza, Strings, K-5 Spanish, Gymnastics & Juggling electives. Performances are offered free of charge and open to all Underwood families.

Additional activities include a **Dream Tree installation** (free) and a **Tile Art Wall project** (\$8 per tile). Also new this year are an **arts raffle** (\$1 per ticket) and a **Mystery Performer** (by donation)!

Pizza and fruit kabobs will be for sale from 5:00–7:15 pm.

The Garden Tile Project at Artspleasure

Students will design and paint a 4 x 4 ceramic tile with a garden theme. All tiles will be painted on Thursday, June 4 in the art room from 4:30-6:00 p.m. After the tiles have been fired over the weekend, the kids will sign their names on the front of their tiles on Monday. All tiles will then be combined to create a large, fun framed-art piece to hang permanently in the Underwood Garden!

Parent participation is required, unless you are participating in the Early Bird program. The cost per tile is \$8.00 and all funding goes directly to the Underwood art departments!

Any questions please contact: Leslieahowes@gmail.com.

Successful Debut of Underwood Artists at CAM

On Friday, May 1, the Underwood Cultural Arts Committee and Parent Teacher Association invited all Underwood families to kick off an exciting new relationship with Raleigh's Contemporary Art Museum (CAM Raleigh).

The inaugural event celebrated the collaboration of artist Traci Lorraine Farmer and our entire second grade class. The free event, held in conjunction with Raleigh's First Friday activities, featured the art work from students in Ms. Cardella, Mrs. Lehning, Ms. Lohr and Ms. Williams' classes. Nearly 300 Underwood parents, students, teachers and staff were present to celebrate the hugely successful show entitled, Who We Are and Where We Come From.

CAM Raleigh is located at 409 West Martin Street. camraleigh.org.

And the Winner is...

The clear winner of the Backpack Buddies Ice Cream Party Contest is the Second Grade! Congratulations for raising over \$1000 for our hunger relief program. Please accept a giant 'Thank You' from me to all of you who generously supported our buddies throughout the school year. Underwood has an amazing, loving and caring community of which I am so proud to be a part!

More good news! Several PTA members have reached out to their churches and other organizations for financial support of our Backpack Buddies program. Promises have been made, and I feel sure they will provide a large part of our funding for next year! If any of you have fundraising groups at your house of worship that you think may be interested in helping to support Backpack Buddies, please send your contact information to me at jeanne.maher@yahoo.com.

Have a wonderful summer! You deserve it!
-Jeannie Maher

Underwood Welcomes Michael Beadle

The Cultural Arts Committee, United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, and your PTA welcomed Michael Beadle to Underwood April 27 to May 1. Michael is a well known author, poet, and teacher. While on campus, Mr. Beadle encouraged students in Mrs. Bryson-Jacobs's classes to sharpen their writing skills through poetry.

Ask a fourth grader about the experience of working with this talented writer. Ask them to share one of their poems with you or see if they remember how to use the word "RESPECT" to strengthen writing excerpts.

This program was supported by a grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, Inc. Additional support was provided by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, and funds from the Underwood Elementary PTA. For more information on Michael Beadle, please visit his website at www.michaelbeadle.com. For more information on United Arts and their role in placing professional artists in our schools, please visit their website at www.unitedarts.org.

May Garden Meet-ups a Success

Have you seen the garden lately? It's looking good thanks to our garden meet-up volunteers! We accomplished a lot and had tons of fun together while painting pots, sprouting cucumber seeds, planting herbs, harvesting and tasting peas and strawberries, making garden signs, trying new fruits and veggies, and enjoying wildlife. Come have a look for yourself and enjoy a seat on one of our beautiful new benches!

Teachers Are Stars at Underwood!

During the week of April 13-17, the wonderful teachers at Underwood received some of the star treatment they deserve everyday during the Teacher and Staff Appreciation "Hollywood Week"!

Yummy breakfast on Monday! Fan mail from students on Tuesday! A star-worthy dessert bar on Wednesday! Swag bags for all 81 staff members on Thursday! And, the annual lunch catered by The Lunchbox and More on Friday!

Thanks to all of the amazing Underwood families, we were able to give over \$5,700 cash, pens, paper and many donated coupons to teachers, specialists, administrators, student teachers, custodians and food service specialists in their "swag bags". In addition, a drawing was held for five pairs of tickets for The Underwood Foundation Event on May 30th as well as two gift bags filled with donated gift cards.

Underwood teacher Christine Greene summed up the thoughts expressed by many teachers and staff saying, "In 22 years of teaching, I have never felt so much gratitude from and for the school community I work in...Thank you again for your kindness and generosity and for entrusting your children with the teachers at Underwood!"

A special thank you to Wendy Burkard and Rachel Trunkey for organizing the superstar week. Many thanks, as well, to students, parents, donors, volunteers, Cameron Village Chick-fil-A, The Lunchbox and More and the Underwood Foundation for making this star treatment all possible.

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 ammefleming@gmail.com.



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