



## Tiger Tales

The Official Newsletter of the Harbins Elementary PTA

October, 2011

A School of Leaders and Learners

Volume 17, Issue 1



### From the Principal's Pen

Dear Parents,

The first nine weeks has passed very quickly and our students have learned a great deal during this first quarter. It was great to see you at Early Release conferences and we appreciate your support! Your partnership with us is imperative to your child's success in school. It is our hope that online scheduling made it easy to schedule an appointment with your child's teacher.

I want to offer a reminder that our students in **grades 3 and 5 will be taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills on October 17-21. We want to provide the opportunity for your student to achieve his/her best on the test.**

You can support your student's success during testing by:

- Ensuring that your child has a good night's sleep before testing.
- Ensuring that your child eats a good breakfast at home or school.
- Encouraging your child to do his or her best.
- Ensuring that your child arrives to school on time.

We have many exciting events coming up in the next couple of months and we hope you will mark your calendars for these important events.

Please join us for **Movie Under the Stars** on October 28 and enjoy fun and fellowship with friends and neighbors. You do not want to miss the **Harbins Veterans Day Program** on November 10 at 6:30. Please join us as we pay tribute to our veterans and active service men and women.

The program, **American Heroes: Our Veterans**, will showcase our students' talents while they honor those who sacrifice so much for our country. Come and help us recognize our community heroes!

The annual Harbins Storytelling Festival is on November 17 at 6:30. This always proves to be a fun and entertaining event and I hope you will come out to enjoy the students while they spin a favorite tale.

I want to make sure that you are also aware of SPLOST for Education. The Gwinnett County Board of Education has called for a referendum on continuing the one-cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for education for another five years. The question will be on the county's **November 8, 2011**, ballot. Specific information on how these revenues will support education were sent home earlier and are posted on our webpage for your reference. We encourage you to take the time to review these documents.

Again, please know how much we appreciate each of you and what an honor it is for our staff to serve your student each day. Thank you for your partnership with us. We could not be successful without you. We look forward to an excellent 2<sup>nd</sup> nine weeks! Thank you for all you do to support student success at Harbins!

Cindy

#### Contents

Principal's Pen	1
PTA President's Message	2
PTA Committee Updates	2
Mobile Device Apps	4
I Love Math	5
Connections	6
Calendar Reminders	7

#### Upcoming Events

- Movie Under the Stars
- Fundraiser Pick-Up
- Veteran's Day Program
- Breakfast with Santa





On behalf of the PTA Executive Board and the Executive Committees, I would like to thank the parents and Harbins community for your support of Harbins Elementary.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA fall fundraiser. We cannot support the school and teachers without your support of our fundraiser! This year we hope to purchase more technology, new books for the Book Room as well as providing the teachers much deserved grants again. I'd also like to thank everyone who has signed up to volunteer your time. Our Volunteer Coordinator will be in touch with you as soon as we have an event that we need help with. Meanwhile, you can always help with VIP's on Thursdays. The teachers love and appreciate all they do on a weekly basis.

Remember to pick up your fundraiser items on the afternoon of October 27 as most of the items are frozen.

We hope to see everyone at our Movie Under the Stars event on October 28. The kids have a wonderful time! You can purchase dinner from Chick-Fil-A, all your drinks & snacks and even buy your Spirit Wear. Pack up your family, grab a blanket and join us for this fun event. Siblings are welcome, of course!

We are looking for a new President for the 2012/2013 school year. If you are interested in this position, please let me know: melinda1207@bellsouth.net.

We look forward to serving our school in this 2011/2012 school year.

*Melinda Stewart*  
*PTA President*

# PTA Committee Updates

## Volunteer Coordinator

Dear Volunteer,

Thank you so much for volunteering to help with PTA this school year. There will be several events throughout the year when we will ask for your help. Our first event is Movie Under the Stars on the evening of **October 28<sup>th</sup>**. We need volunteers to help with selling food and drinks as well as clean-up after the show. We would also love to have volunteers to help with Breakfast with Santa on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** and the Valentine's Dance on **February 10<sup>th</sup>**. We will be in touch with you regarding scheduling your time for our events. If you don't hear from us right away, please be patient!

Also, please remember, VIP's meet on **Thursday mornings** and would always love your help. They meet in the PTA room and you are welcome to come in as early as **8:00am**, or drop in anytime **Thursday mornings**.

If you would like to volunteer in your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher as we do not schedule classroom volunteers.

I will be contacting you as events get closer to arrange your help.

Thank you again for your support of Harbin's PTA -

Melissa Reeder  
Volunteer Coordinator



## **Breakfast with Santa**

---

## **Room Representative Coordinator**

---

A great big 'thank you' to all of the wonderful parents who volunteered to be room representatives. I know the teachers really appreciate the help! A lot of events in and out of our classrooms would not be possible without these volunteers. Your room rep may have asked you to bring in a drink donation. If you have not had a chance to do that, please do so. There is a cart near the front door to place your drinks.

Many Room Representatives are also responsible for planning events in our classrooms for our students. Upcoming will be our Winter Party that will usually take place the last week of school before winter break. I hope we can all find the time this year to attend our children's parties and thank these wonderful volunteers for their hard work!

Melissa Hilton  
Room Representative Coordinator

## **Movie Under the Stars**

---

We are so excited about Movie Under the Stars which is coming the evening of **Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**. It will be a fun family event with face painting, bounce houses and a featured movie under the stars! This year we'll have Chick-Fil-A sandwiches, chips, popcorn, drinks and candy for sale! Please come out and enjoy a special night with your Harbins friends and family!

Spirit Wear will also be available. If you don't have yours yet, it's a great time to get it! We will have some items in stock or you can place an order.

Melissa Reeder  
MUTS Chairperson

The weather's getting cooler and there's a bite in the air. Are those sleigh bells I hear? Christmas will be here before we know it so mark your calendars now for our annual Breakfast with Santa! It will be **Saturday, December 3rd**, from 9am until noon. We will have a delicious breakfast, music, crafts to make and buy, giveaways, Animaland, and of course a photo op with our favorite big guy, Santa! Look for more info to come! Interested in booth space at our holiday market? Email Elizabeth at [tommaugeri@aol.com](mailto:tommaugeri@aol.com)

Elizabeth Maugeri  
Breakfast with Santa Chairperson

## **Fall Fundraiser**

---

The holidays are rapidly approaching and our Tigers have the perfect solution to help with all of your Holiday baking needs. This year's Fundraiser has kicked off to a great start with our students selling cookie dough, cheesecakes and other edible yummys. The deadline to turn in Fundraiser orders is Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and we will not have a long wait to pick up the goodies. All orders will be delivered on **Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**. Pick-up will be at Harbins from 3:15pm – 7:00pm in the cafeteria.

The money raised from this year's fundraiser will help purchase new computer software such as Discovery Island across multiple grade levels, as well as more books for the book room! I hope you will ask your family and friends to help out and support Harbins.

Not only do we get to help out the school but our students and teachers have the opportunity to win prizes through collecting orders. The top seller in the school overall will win a new bike! Every student who sells 10 items will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card. Even the top selling teacher and classroom has a chance to win!

Melissa Hilton  
Fundraiser Chairperson

## VIP (Very Involved People)

---

Are you someone who would like to become more involved in the school, but don't know where in the world to start? Well, there are lots of volunteer opportunities and the words "I have a little time on \_\_\_ and would like to get more involved at school" are music to our ears. Guess what, I have an opportunity for you!!! VIP's is a group of people of all ages who meet on Thursday's. The way it works is, staff drop off projects for us to work on which enables them to focus on the children. A few examples of project work include crafts, laminating, or dye cutting (similar to a Cricket but not electric). It is sooo much fun in the VIP room on Thursdays, you should at least check it out and see if it's a fit for your volunteer time. PLUS, it's a great opportunity to help out, then travel down the hall to eat lunch with your child(ren) since you're already at school. Can't you just see their little faces when you show up for lunch? Now come on in! Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please email me at [wo\\_horsey@hotmail.com](mailto:wo_horsey@hotmail.com) For those of you who already donate your time and skills – you're awesome and we are thankful for you! Please consider VIP's. – Anita Clary, VIP Chairperson

## Study Island and SuccessMaker on iPads and other Mobile Devices

Emmett Mullins, Technology Coordinator

Did you know that your student can access some great school-purchased learning tools on your mobile device? Some smartphones such as an iPhone and tablets such as iPad can be used to help your student continue their learning away from a regular computer.

One new tool is from SuccessMaker. If you have an iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch, visit the App store and search for Speed Games. This app will let students practice their math facts in a fun, game environment.

For our third through fifth graders, Study Island is available. Simply use your mobile device's web browser to access [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com). There is a "mobile version" link there. This will allow your student to log in to the website just as they do from school. They will be able to take any assigned tests or take practice tests in any subject area. Unfortunately for the kids, the Study Island games are not available in the mobile edition. All their scores, however, will be reported to their teacher online.

So, take your child's learning on the go. It will keep their little minds active and growing!

## Reflections

---

We are having another successful year with the PTA Reflections Arts Program at Harbins Elementary. Our entries are all collected and now we are on to the next phase - judging! The Harbins Judges are folks from our community who volunteer their time and expertise in the subjects they are blind judging. Once our local Harbins contest is complete, the winning entries will proceed to the county level for the next round of judging. Our Harbins students are in the running for county, then maybe state, or national titles! We are so proud of our students artistic expressions. Many thanks for those who participated (Artists, Judges, and Facilitators) for all of your efforts.

– Anita Clary, Reflections Chairperson

A black rectangular box containing the text "Teacher Pages..." in a white, decorative, serif font. The word "Teacher" is on the top line and "Pages..." is on the bottom line.



## I love Math!

by: Suzanne Hood, Instructional Math Coach

Do you love Math? Our students begin school loving Math in Kindergarten. Our mission as educators with your support is to teach our students how to become proficient and confident mathematicians. Parents frequently ask, "How can I help my child in Math?" Here are a few suggestions:

Grades K-2:

1. Count everything!
2. Ask your child to help you solve everyday number problems.
3. Make up games with dice and playing cards.
4. Estimate everything!

Grades 3-5:

Gwinnett's Online Campus is offering to all families a self-paced, interactive online tutorial. The tutorials range from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through high school content and contain explanations and self-checking quizzes for all AKS with step by step feedback when applicable. Using these tutorials, students can repeat any portion of the tutorial as many times as needed in order to learn the content.

To access the Gwinnett Online Campus tutorials, simply follow the instructions listed below:

Go to the GOC Website - <http://www.gwinnettonlinecampus.com>

1. Click "LOGINS" in the upper right corner.
2. Username: school name + (es, ms, or hs) + math (mulberryesmath, daculamsmath, daculahsmath)
3. Password: same as username
4. Select desired tutorial.
5. You will be prompted to "Click here" to begin.

Your child's teacher can provide advice about helping your child with math. Here are some topics you could discuss with the teacher:

- your child's level of performance in math
- the goals your child is working towards in math and how you can support your child in achieving them
- strategies you can use to assist your child in areas that he or she finds difficult
- activities to work on at home with your child
- other resources, such as books, games, and websites ([ceismc.gatech.edu/csi](http://ceismc.gatech.edu/csi) – Mathematics resource for parents and students.)
- join a club...Chess Club, Game Club, or Wizzle® Pro



## Connections, Connections, Connections!

In October in celebration of International School Library Month we are connecting with the Lam Tin Methodist Primary School in Hong Kong. We will be making bookmarks to send to them at the end of October and they will be making and sending bookmarks to us. This is not only a chance to celebrate reading with others, but helps us reach out to distant students using digital media to communicate. Visit Lam Tin's website through [harbins.org](http://harbins.org), the media page.

We're making other connections this year to the worldwide community and to our 7 Habits Leadership program through Read A Book, Give a Book. Anyone can help us reach our goal of giving 10,000 books. Visit [www.wegivebooks.org](http://www.wegivebooks.org). Log in as Harbins, with the password - learn. Select a book to read from over 150 titles. Read the book online and then select "Give a Book", at the bottom of the page. A book will be donated by the Pearson Foundation in Harbins name to one of the literacy campaigns. This info is also available at [harbins.org](http://harbins.org). Pass this along to friends and family in the community and beyond. Join in to help us reach our goal. It's a Win, Win for everyone.

As a school community we've been connecting with good books and others who have read them through our annual Bookabalooza reading celebration. We met together in groups to talk about the book we each read. We had a discussion, played games based on our books, and visited author's websites. It was so rewarding we're planning another Bookabalooza for later this year. In growing a community of readers at Harbins we've started our new reading program, "Million Dollar Reader". More information about this incentive program will be coming home with your child and can be found on our website.



# Mark Your Calendar

**Harbins Elementary**  
3550 New Hope Road  
Dacula, GA 30019

**Office:**  
(770)682-4270

**Fax:**  
(770)682-4285

*We envision a school where all children develop a positive image of their future because they are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to be intentional and productive learners and effective leaders.*

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.harbins.org](http://www.harbins.org)



## October

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 17    | Bus Driver Appreciation Day                           |
| 18-21 | ITBS Grades 3rd & 5th                                 |
| 19    | Spirit Night at Dacula McDonalds<br>5:00 pm - 8:00 pm |
| 23    | Red Ribbon Week                                       |
| 28    | Family Movie Night                                    |
| 24-26 | ITBS Grades 3rd & 5th                                 |

## November

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 3     | Froyolo Spirit Night<br>5:00 pm - 9:00 pm             |
| 8     | Zaxby's Spirit Night<br>5:00 pm - 9:00 pm             |
| 9     | PTA/Veteran's Day Program-Chorus<br>6:30 pm - 8:00 pm |
| 13    | American Education Week                               |
| 16    | Spirit Night at Dacula McDonalds<br>5:00 pm - 8:00 pm |
| 17    | Story Telling Festival<br>6:30 pm - 8:00 pm           |
| 21-25 | School Holidays                                       |



Please remember these simple things you can do to help our school earn extra money.

1. Your Publix Partners card
2. Recycle print cartridges
3. Collect BoxTops for Education
4. Shop from the BoxTops website: [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

Be a VIP!! Any Thursday you can come in and volunteer to help the teachers in our school.



Thank you for helping us raise over \$2000 for our school.

Please continue to collect Box Tops. Ask your family members to give you theirs too. Every one is worth 10 cents and can help a lot!

Collection sheets can be found at:  
[http://www.harbins.org/About/box\\_tops.pdf](http://www.harbins.org/About/box_tops.pdf)

Shop online at:  
<http://www.boxtops4education.com/Default.aspx>

Spirit Days are every Friday! Spirit Wear is available at PTA events. Thank you to everyone already showing their Harbins Spirit!



Don't throw those old print cartridges away!! Send them to school and we will recycle them. The school will get money for every one we turn in. Look for the ink cart bin in front of the media center.

Remember to recycle your drink pouches in the cafeteria.

Thank you for your help!

## Support Our School

