



# Parent Teacher Council of Dundee Highlands

407 S. 5th Street,  
West Dundee, IL 60118

December 2010

## President's Article

Accuracy, fluency, and comprehension are all important literacy buzz words.

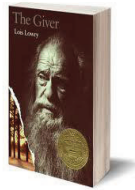
We know these elements are important in building a life-long reader, but how do we help improve our child's reading at home?

As parents, how do we make reading more fun for even reluctant readers?

One way to work with your kids on their reading skills is to start or join a parent/child book club. DHES parent Nancy May started the first (to my knowledge) mother/daughter book club at Highlands in 2007 with a group of then 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girls.

These 10 girls and their moms have been together for over 4 years and have read almost 40 books! The older girls are now in middle school and the group is still going strong.

We started reading simpler, lower level books, and are now tackling tougher books with more grown-up subject matter, like *The Giver* and *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*.



As a parent, it has been a great opportunity to bond with my daughter and share our love of reading.

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to bond with my daughter and share our love of reading. My son and I have been in a book club together for 4 years as well, starting when he was in first grade. To be honest, in the beginning I dreaded the meetings because getting my son to sit and stay focused during the discussions was exhausting. But ultimately it has been so worth it. Discussing books with boys (especially young boys) can be a bit of a challenge, but this book club has really picked up steam as the boys have gotten older and now we *both* look forward to it every month. Although my son is a strong reader, he doesn't enjoy reading for pleasure as much as his older sister. Reading some of the books out loud together has been a lot of fun, and he's been exposed to books he might not have picked for himself. In fact, some of his all-time favorite books have been book club selections.

To my knowledge, Dundee Highlands parents have taken the initiative to start a half dozen parent/child book clubs. Since existing book clubs sometimes have a size limit or target specific ages, at our December PTC meeting we'll be sharing tips on how to start your own book club. We'll talk about the dos and don'ts that we've learned from our own experiences and we'll share our favorite book club selections. **Join us at 7:00 on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Multi-Purpose room** and stay for the meeting to learn more about the role of PTC at Dundee Highlands! We hope to see you there!

Wendy Brant PTC Co-President

We are in need of some volunteers for Barnes and Nobles to wrap books for donations, and all money raised will go to Dundee Highlands. We will need at least 2 people per shift. This will give us a chance to ask the customers for their receipt for the my school's cool contest!



Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10-12, 12-2, 2-4

Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 10-12, 12-2, 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, 8-10

Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 10-1

Jackie Dabandon 616-402-5400 jackie3jd@yahoo.com

**REMINDER:** When using school items – please put items back from where you got them!  
And Please leave rooms as clean as you get them! Thank you!



## **Barnes & Noble Bookfair**

**Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** SpringHill Mall

Shop anytime throughout the day to help support our school.

Evening festivities from 6-9pm such as

Chorus concert, Mrs. Schmidt's story reading, Santa's story reading and more...

**\*\*Don't forget to turn in your receipts to for the *My school's cool* mall promotion\*\***



Have your items gift wrapped before you leave!

Look towards mall entrance for wrapping table.

Can't stop by Barnes & Noble December 7<sup>th</sup>?

Visit [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) to support our school online from 12/7 – 12/13

By entering bookfair id# 10339562 at checkout.

Trish Glees

**Happy Holidays Dundee Highlands!**

**This is an invitation for some fun!**

The PTC Holiday Shop is here!!!

Mark your calendars **December 11, 2010**

**From 9:00am to 11:00am**



Your child will be able to come and do a little shopping in our own "Holiday Shop" for some special gifts maybe for Mom, Dad, brother sister or maybe a special friend!

The majority of the gifts will be priced under **\$3.00** and are family oriented gifts.

A envelope will come home on Friday December 3.

This will allow you to decide with your child how much to spend on each persons gift!

*No Peeking once these special gifts arrive!!*

You are welcome to stay in our little breakfast area where you can purchase a cup of coffee and some donuts while your child shops!



If you would like help with this fun event call Emily Christopherson 847-532-0436

## **TARGET CHECK CARD !! NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME!!**



Don't forget that Target pays **you** back **5%** of your total receipt when you use their **Red Card!** Apply now, and earn money for our school while saving yourself some too! It's easy to do!

Apply in the store (with a voided check), or online at [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe),

wait 7-10 days for your card to arrive, then go to [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe) and link your card to Dundee Highlands.

You then simply swipe your Red Card at checkout and the 5% is automatically deducted from your total!

Remember that you are *not* applying for a Target credit card,

this is like a debit card and the funds are deducted from your checking account.

However, if you **ARE** a Target credit card holder,

you may go to the website above and link your existing card to our school in order to reap the benefits!

We need more members to really see our redemption check from Target grow,

so please consider this option to help out!

Janan Searles

## Directory



If any of your contact information has changed or needs to be corrected, please contact Karen.Freitag@motorola.com by December 10<sup>th</sup>. We will send out an updated page for the directory of any changes before Winter Break.

If you need an additional copy you can order one for \$2, contact Dawn arielluvr@yahoo.com

## HAVE YOU SHOPPED AT SPRING HILL MALL OR HOME DEPOT LATELY?

We need your receipts!! We are still hanging on to 2nd place in the "My School's Cool" contest, but, oh, how we'd love to take the 1st place prize of \$5,000!!

We are competing with 7 other neighboring schools to see who can turn in the highest number of dollars spent at these establishments by the end of this calendar year!

Please remember to save your receipts and turn them in to the school office (or send them to school with your child), OR the mall offers two places to drop off your receipts as well.

The first is in the locker labeled "**Dundee Highlands**" adjacent to the Food Court entrance in the JCPenney wing.

The second is in the mall office located in the back of the Food Court near the restrooms.

What's nice is that if you need to hang onto your receipt, you may simply convert your receipt total to a "point pass" and turn that in instead.

Rose, in the school office has these, as well as the folks at the mall office.

Did you know that there is a fabulous new restaurant that recently opened in the circle around the mall? It is a full service restaurant with a lounge serving steaks, burgers, sandwiches, ribs, salads, pasta and kid's meals. "**Joe's**" is located along Hwy 31 in the spot where TGIFridays used to be. As luck would have it, their receipts are eligible for our contest as well! Check it out!

To answer a few frequently asked questions,

YES, you may submit receipts from the dental office (Pro Dental), any eyewear stores including doctor's receipts, food court etc. Basically, any receipt from inside the mall, Home Depot or Joe's is valid.

What a successful **Fall Fundraiser** the PTC had selling pasta.

The PTC raised over \$3000.00 for the school! The top selling classes were:

Mrs. Storm (PM), Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Waldschmidt, Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Krewer's.

These classes were rewarded for their efforts with ice cream at lunchtime.



In addition for selling over \$5000.00 is pasta, the fundraising company gave our school a \$50.00 gift card to Wal-Mart.

Way to go Dundee Highland students, faculty and families!

Denise Skrzypinski



## CONTINUE TO SAVE BOX TOPS AND CAMPBELL'S LABELS!

Our fall contest was a great success! We earned over \$600.00 by clipping those labels!

Thanks for participating and keep looking out for them!

There will be another contest in February



Janan Searles

Movie Night Family Movie Night was a big success!

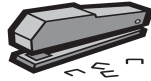
Thank you to all of the families who joined us for pizza & popcorn while enjoying Disney's newly released movie, *Toy Story 3!* \_The night would not have been a success without the help of:

**Dena Hernandez, Gracie Pietraszewski, and Jenny Wiles. See you next fall!**

Kym Garcia & Shelley Silva, Co-Chairs

### C-Team December News:

The DHES C-Team has been running quite smoothly thus far thanks to our many dedicated volunteers. The staff and faculty have expressed their appreciation. In the last month, we purchased two new electric pencil sharpeners and we plan to purchase an additional electric stapler.



Plans to either improve our Ellison machine, or more likely, replace it with more efficient, diverse & current technology are in discussion at this point. We hope to have a solution shortly.

Melanie Haines

### TAP program News



Parent volunteers waiting to be called to action, fear not!  
Your help is still needed, and your patience is appreciated!

The teachers, as you know, are very busy dealing with their class sizes and the changing schedules. This has made it difficult for them to even know when volunteers could be effectively employed. Many classrooms schedules were changed repeatedly during the 1st trimester, leaving teachers unable to define their volunteer needs. But, slowly, requests are coming in and calls are going out to fill them.

The response from the families at DHES is not surprising: Over 40 adults signed up to volunteer specifically as "TAP" volunteers. On top of that, many other adults signed up directly with the teachers to assist with Friday folders, book orders, and photographing events for the yearbook. Add to those numbers the volunteers that have come in to work on the copy team, design sets for musical performances, and during the holiday parties and the number becomes quite impressive at over 100 volunteers putting in many man hours of service to the benefit of the students, teachers, staff and community of DHES!

As mentioned during TAP training, this program is evolving, and as with all new endeavors, it may seem slow starting...but please continue your patience, and know that you will be called in as soon as possible!

Kym Garcia

### Staff Appreciation Dinner

The annual staff appreciation dinner was held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in the late afternoon/evening of conferences. This is our way of showing appreciation to the faculty and staff by providing them with a warm meal on this particularly long day. We had many parent volunteers that provided food donations and assistance for that evening. Many of the faculty and staff have already expressed their gratitude.

#### **The dinner was made possible by donations from the following parents and contributors:**

- \*Daniel Murphy provided homemade sausage & eggplant stuffed shells with tomato basil cream sauce...delicious!
- \*The Olive Garden donated salad and bread sticks
- \*Heidi Ames provided gonella bread and butter from Panera... YUM!
- \*Melanie Haines provided tableware and a beans & pasta garlic pesto dish
- \*Buffy Anderson provided treat bags for the staff and table decorations (they liked this treat)
- \*Elizabeth Mahnke provided scrumptious dark chocolate truffles & brownies
- \*Elizabeth Ward provided a homemade Tiramisu... WOW!
- \*Victoria Boyce donated a homemade pound cake...delicious!

There were quite a few leftovers, but I was assured the staff would eat them the following day for lunch and none would go to waste. They truly enjoyed it!

*A special thank-you to Daniel Murphy, Buffy Anderson and Elizabeth Mahnke for volunteering their services for set-up, serving staff and clean up!!!! Thank-you!!!*



Melanie Haines