

Watts Happenings

Newsletter of George Watts Montessori Magnet School and
Parent/Teacher's Association (PTA) * El boletín de la Escuela de George
Watts Montessori magnet y la Asociación de Cria y Maestro (PTA)
December/Diciembre 2006

La versión española estará disponible en enero.



January 20, 2007

Starting at 10 am in the school gymnasium.

Currently we need donations for prizes, cakes (for the cake walk), games and food. We are specifically looking for a popcorn maker, donation of cotton candy maker and someone willing to donate hot dogs and sodas.

There will be lots of opportunities to help make games. Please contact Rhonda Roberts at 919-225-9686 or at RLRoberts02@yahoo.com if you would like to help with the Winter Carnival.

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Drumming Masters

By John Cantrell Saylor
Second Grade, Ms. Hackney's Class

Late this November my class went to a very exiting performance at the Balwin Auditorium with 28 Japanese Tiko drummers. It was the most interesting performance I've ever seen.

In the first drumming ensemble the people that are drumming copy each other with Tiko drums (a drum that was originated in Japan that is worth about 400 dollars.)

One person is not very good with the Tiko drums in the performance and has to practice a lot. When the person gets the hang of it another person comes in and the people do the exact same thing.

The name of the next dance/performance is Warhorse. They used the same music to communicate to the soldiers when they were in battle. The piece is very fierce. I like it a lot. In fact, it is my favorite piece. The people on stage make the sound of horses' hooves by hitting the edge of the Tiko drum that he or she is using. Warhorse is my 1st favorite piece.

Hownawn is the name of the next piece. It is a song to call rain so that the people will have a plentiful harvest. The song is meant to sound like thunder so that rain will come. In the middle of the piece the rain comes but they kept on playing the song.

The next piece of music is named Tencora. In this piece of music they make us say "Hoisa!" in parts. It is about a boat race. The piece was slow in the beginning because they are carrying boats to shore, but later the piece sped up when they race began. This was my 2nd Favorite piece.

They picked a few teachers, one of which was my own, Ms. Hackney, to see if they could have been Tiko drummers. They played part of the next song slowly. Ms. Hackney looked confused. She did very well. Hooray for Ms. Hackney!

Mizuri is the name of the final piece. There were four people playing the drums. One person was playing two at once. It sounds sort of like a thunderstorm.

This performance is the most interesting one I've ever seen. I like it because of the new facts at I learned. My favorite element was the beautiful drumming of the drummers.



Counselor's Corner-

Season's Greetings from your School Counselor Melissa Parfitt.



As most of you know I have taken a short break from my Classroom Guidance Lessons for the 2nd nine weeks. My focus this quarter has been on meeting then needs of students in a group or individual basis. I have been working with small groups of students on anger management, cooperation, and getting along with peers. I have also turned my attention to students in need of some private sessions with their counselor. Of course, I am still serving as SAP chair and helping as much as I can with the testing process. Have your students look for me as a specialist in their classrooms again next quarter. It is a pleasure to serve your children's needs. Have a wonderful holiday season. Melissa Parfitt



SOS Committee

The parents, teachers and friends of the school have raised \$1829 from working at Durham Bulls games over the summer. This fall we sold concessions at Duke football and basketball games. A great big thank you goes out to all of those volunteers. We are looking forward to working at more Duke basketball games this winter. We'll find out after the holidays what the final contribution to the PTA General Fund will be. If you'd like to help with the SOS committee, or to work at a Duke Men's Basketball game, please contact Elizabeth Edmiston at 309-4905 or eedmiston@nc.rr.com, or Natasha Nazareth-Phelps at 680-6625 or nazareth-phelps@verizon.net.



Four Teachers to Receive Masters Degree

By Molly Reingruber

On December 16th at 8:30 a.m., four of our teachers will graduate from North Carolina A&T with their masters degree in elementary education. Lynette Hackney, Ramona Jones, Karilyn Fletcher, and Ayana Crawford began their classes in August 2005. "We're all so excited and thankful for the opportunity," said Ms. Hackney.

Ms. Crawford said the masters in elementary education helped them "learn techniques to relate with the children and how to better help them." "It's an honor," she said.

While Ms. Jones, Fletcher, and Crawford had completed their Montessori training in primary education just before beginning the masters program, Ms. Hackney faced the additional challenge of beginning her Montessori training in lower elementary education at the same time. It was not easy, but her co-workers supported her efforts. "Ms. Jones would drive me while I read to her or finished my homework."

Ms. Hackney is not the only one who has stayed busy during this time. Ms. Jones moved to lower elementary this fall, and has been training for that level. Ms. Fletcher completed classes to become the new AIG Coordinator at Watts. Ms. Crawford started a family. If you think they are ready to relax, think again. All of them have plans for further training in ESL, AIG, and don't count them out for a possible doctorate as well!

This spring, Ms. Grant, Ms. Hulett, Ms. Molaro, and Ms. Morgan will complete their master's program. They all chose NC A&T in Greensboro as well because it has a Montessori track which gives credit for Montessori training. As part of this program, Watts Montessori hosted classes that allowed other Montessori teachers in the region to apply their training towards a master's degree. Ms. Crum coordinated this program under former Watts principal, Nancy Sabiston.

Ms. Crum appreciates all that the teachers have accomplished. "We're very proud of our teachers' commitment and hard work which will be a big benefit to the students at Watts."

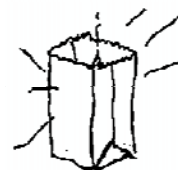


Grounds Committee Update

The next grounds day will be in March the exact date is still to be determined.

We have applied for a Durham County Matching Grant to build a new play structure for the Primary students, improve the landscaping in front of the school and install groups of benches in front of the school to provide outdoor instructional space and create a park-like streetscape along Watts Street. The grants will be awarded in the first quarter of 2007. If we receive the grant we must provide at least 50% percent of the cost of the project. Our grounds day labor will be a large contribution towards the match as volunteer labor is credited toward the match at \$5.00 an hour. Expect to hear more about this when we return from winter break.

Great news! The Trinity Park Neighborhood Association will be donating a total of \$1,200 from luminary sales to George Watts, with \$700 going to the teachers/school and the PTA receiving a gift of \$500 designated for new playground equipment, which will count as a match if we get the grant. This is our first advance gift for the playground/grounds project. Thank you Trinity Park Neighborhood Association.



Spanish Classes Anyone!

Dear Neighbors,

EK Powe families and staff have arranged for Durham Tech to offer Spanish classes at EK Powe Elementary School, on 9th Street. We have opened the classes to teachers and staff at Watts Montessori and would like to invite Watts parents and other Trinity Park/Heights neighbors to join the classes as well.

If you are interested in participating, please e-mail me. Note that a beginner's class is confirmed to start January 16. The intermediate class needs a few more registrants before Durham Tech will provide it. So if you have some Spanish and would like to brush up, we'd particularly love to have you in that class so we can make it happen. We'd like that class to start Jan 16 as well and just need 2 or 3 confirmed students to make it happen.

Details:

Beginning class: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:00, EK Powe Media Center. Class will run from January 16 through early March. Tuition (paid to Durham Tech) is \$55. The book will be about \$22.

Intermediate class (tentative, pending sufficient enrollment): same times and dates.

Hope to see some of you there.

Allison Rice

PTA Membership Drive A Success

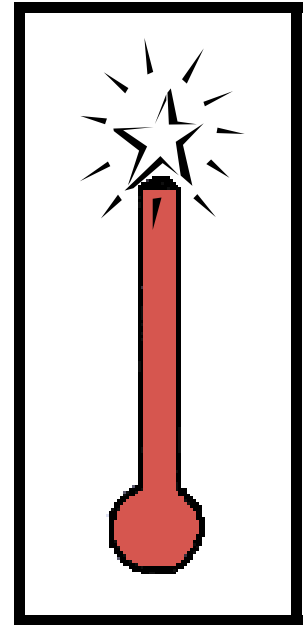
by Eric Douglas

To increase parent participation and improve support for school programs, the George Watts Montessori Magnet Parent Teacher Association (PTA) held a membership drive in late October. The PTA set a goal of 100 total members.

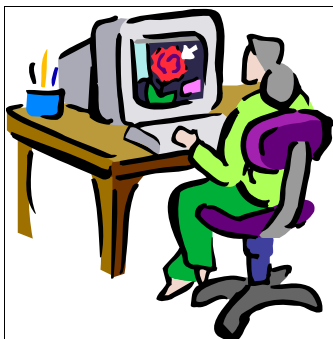
Starting from 66 members in late September, the Membership committee set out to make it as easy as possible to attract more parents. Membership applications were sent home with students and for two days, Angie Douglas and Kirsten Transue manned a table by the car pool pick up lane, receiving the application and money envelopes.

In all, the membership drive exceeded the goal, bringing in 42 new members bringing the total to 108 PTA members.

Thank you Parents, Teachers, Staff and Friends of George Watts!



Communications Committee



PTA E-mail Connection -

Want to be better informed? Would you like to connect with other parents and teachers from Watts? Join the Watts PTA listserv for e-mail updates about PTA, Watts Montessori, and community events. This group serves all parents and teachers at Watts Montessori. To join, please e-mail Molly Reingruber at mreingruber@nc.rr.com. Soon we will send home information about public access to computers and free e-mail accounts.

Translators needed -

The PTA needs volunteers to translate either written materials or at meetings for parents. If you are fluent in both English and Spanish and would like to help, contact Molly Reingruber at 794-3599 or mreingruber@nc.rr.com.



News from the National PTA... **Advocating for Children through PTA**

By Anna Weselak
National PTA President

One of the important roles PTA plays on the local, state, and national scenes is as an advocate for children and education to lawmakers. Throughout PTA's 110-year history, advocacy has been an important cornerstone of our work—one that helped create kindergarten, the national school lunch program, and most recently, the parent involvement component of the school standards of excellence required by the No Child Left Behind Act. As PTA leaders, it is important for you to help influence lawmakers, school boards, and others to take positive action for children and education. Perhaps entering the political process to pursue a goal or cause seems like a daunting task, one that will require too much of your time and effort. Please consider for a moment the time you take to volunteer at school, attend awards assemblies, participate in parent-teacher conferences, or cheer at your child's athletic events. Each of these actions shows your support for your child and their school. You are, in fact, already acting as an advocate. Legislative advocacy can take as little or as much time as you might devote to one of these other advocacy events. PTA is recognizing the week of February 19, 2007, as PTA Advocacy Week. During this week, please consider ways that you might be able to participate in the legislative process. With the changes that occurred during the elections this past November, PTA leaders and members will need to get to know a new set of lawmakers. Visit the local office of your federal legislators, as well as those of your state and local officials and present the case for children and education as a priority. Now is the time to get involved and help achieve your PTA's goals.

Taken from NC Parent-Teacher Bulletin - December 2006/January 2007



Who says your ideas aren't worth anything?

You still have time to submit three great ideas to the PTA Great Idea Bank for an opportunity to get a \$50 gift card for major retailers, such as Target, Office Depot, or Barnes & Noble. Just enter your ideas **before January 3** at www.pta.org/greatideabank. Use the username and password information on the back of your PTA membership card to access the site.

UPCOMING EVENTS & NEED TO KNOW'S AT GEORGE WATTS



December 21-29	(no school)
January 1-2	(no school)
January 9 (Mon)	PTA Meeting at 6 p.m.
January (Sat)	Winter Carnival
January 15 (Mon)	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19 (Fri)	Newsletter Articles / Photo's Submission Deadline
March 13 (Mon)	PTA Meeting at 6 p.m.
March 16 (Fri)	Newsletter Articles / Photo's Submission Deadline
March 31 (Sat)	Annual Yard Sale from 7:30 a.m. -1 p.m.
May 15 (Mon)	PTA Meeting at 6 p.m.

LOS ACONTECIMIENTOS PRÓXIMOS & LA NECESIDAD DE SABER EN VATIOS DE GEORGE

Diciembre 21-29	(no escuela)
Enero 1-2	(no escuela)
Enero 9 (el lunes)	Peseta que Encuentra en 6 de la tarde
Enero (el sábado)	Invierno Carnaval
Enero 15 (el lunes)	Rey de Martin Luther Hijo. Día
Enero19 (el viernes)	Los Artículos del boletín/ la Fecha Tope de la Sumisión de Foto
Marzo 13 (el lunes)	Peseta que Encuentra en 6 de la tarde
Marzo 16 (el viernes)	Los Artículos del boletín/ la Fecha Tope de la Sumisión de Foto
Marzo 31 (el sábado)	Venta de garaje anual De 7:30 de la mañana. -1 de la tarde.
Pueda 15 (el lunes)	Peseta que Encuentra en 6 de la tarde



Fundraising Committee

Thank you to everyone for the successful fundraisers so far this year, \$4337.

WINTER BREAK



See you next year!
Véale el año próximo!

Next PTA Meeting:

Monday, January 9, 6:00 p.m.
 Held in the school gymnasium.
 Interpreter for Spanish speakers.
 All are welcome!

Próxima Reunión de la PTA:

El lunes, el 9 de Enero de
 6:00 de la tarde.
 Contuvo el gimnasio de la escuela.
 El intérprete para oradores españoles.
 ¡Todo está bienvenido!

newspaper staff

/Personal periodístico

- Angie Douglas - design & layout
- Claudia Curtis - co-editor
- Eric Douglas - co-editor
- Patti Crum - editorial review
- Donna Rewalt - editorial review
- Molly Reingruber - editorial review



**A special thanks to
 our student reporter
 along with our
 October collation and
 staple crew :**

*John Cantrell Saylor—
 reporter*

*John & Ben Reingruber
 Ashlin & Jamsion Douglas*

PTA Officers and Committee Chairs Oficiales y Presidentes de Comité de PTA 2006-2007

President / Presidente

Donna Rewalt 919-572-0277
 drewalt@earthlink.net

Vice President / Vice-Presidente

Laito Espinosa 919-423-8290

Secretary / Secretario

Karilyn Fletcher 919-425-5638
 Karilyn.Fletcher@dpsnc.net

Treasurer / Tesorerero

Cathy Carinder 919-687-0928
 Aemom1@earthlink.net

Communications / Comunicaciones

Molly Reingruber 919-475-2227
 bankinfo@nc.rr.com

Parent Involvement Chair

Angie Douglas 919-479-2015
 angiedouglas@nc.rr.com

Fundraising / Recaudación de fondos

Michelle Bass 919-683-5418
 bmbass4@yahoo.com

Grounds / Ajardimar

Lizzy Gilligan 919-682-2856
 onegirlsopinion@yahoo.com

SOS

Elizabeth Edmiston 919-309-4905
 eedminston@nc.rr.com

Principal / Director

Patti Crum 919-560-3947
 Patti.Crum@dpsnc.net

Newsletter Deadlines

The next newsletter will be published in late
 January. If you have a story, photo, or
 artwork to include in the next newsletter send it
 to Angie Douglas @ angiedouglas@nc.rr.com
 no later than January 19th .