

Swansfield Elementary School PTA News

Swansfield Welcomes Artist in Residence – Tara Holl

We are excited to announce that a local visual artist, Tara Holl, will be in residence at Swansfield for the month of October, working with all 4th and 5th grade classes to produce a permanent art installation for the cafeteria. Ms. Holl, who specializes in mixed media and fused glass murals, has carried out dozens of school residencies over the last 10 years, including an outdoor mural at nearby Running Brook Elementary.

Complementing Swansfield's Green School initiative, the mural produced by our students will focus on the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay and depict how our choices here—in our school, in our homes, in our neighborhood—can make a difference in protecting the beauty and bounty of the Bay. The mural will be painted in components on a variety of materials—some new, some recycled—and will be hung on the wall over the kitchen doors. Once finished, the “Swan Café” will be an even more inviting and inspirational place to eat and play!

This residency is made possible by two generous grants from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Howard County Arts Council, by PTA Cultural Arts funds, and by donations of time and materials from Swansfield families. Next week, look for a flier with more details about how you can help with this project through volunteering time or passing on old paint!

Ugandan Drummer Ssuuna Helps Students “Come Together”

In our first cultural arts assembly for the year, African dancer and drummer Ssuuna will present a program called “Mujje: Come Together” for

Swansfield Web Site: <http://ses.hcpss.org/home>
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grades pre-K through 3rd on Wednesday, September 30 at 9 AM. Ssuuna weaves together stories with dance and music from his native Uganda played on authentic African instruments. Ssuuna's program emphasizes traditional values like respect and gratitude as they are passed on through song and story. Ask your child on Wednesday night what they liked best about the program—and if they start drumming on all the furniture, you'll know where they got their inspiration!

Coffee and Dessert with Administration

On September 30th, we will have our first Coffee with the Administration for this school year at 7:00 p.m. in our Media Center. If your schedule permits, you would be welcome to share dessert, coffee and conversation about ways to enhance our communication and experience here at Swansfield! Please visit our new blog to comment on our question posed for the event: <http://sesprincipalblog.edublogs.org>.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Thank you to all of our volunteers at Back to School Night—Steve Ingram, Kim Stinnett, Kristy Virostek, Cindy Swanson, and Marleny Espinoza. We also would like to extend kudos to Jodi Dzuray for doing such a terrific job as volunteer coordinator.

Recommended Reads – check it out

Ms. Brunn in First Grade really enjoys:

[Hedgie Blasts Off!](#) by Jan Brett and
[Meet Danitra Brown](#) by Nikki Grimes

PTA Web Site: <http://www.swansfield.com>

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Box Tops

(www.boxtops4education.com)

The PTA is still collecting Box Tops this year. The first drawing will be held on October 9th. To enter, place your clipped Box Tops in a baggie, write your name and your teacher's name on a slip of paper, and take it all into school. Prizes include gift cards to Giant & Safeway as well as fun things for the kids. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in their Box Tops!

Grocery Club Card Sign-Up

Swansfield is participating in the Giant A+ Program and the Safeway Escrip Program. Once you have designated your club cards to Swansfield, every time you swipe your card at those stores, you earn money for us! So far we have 100 families signed up for Giant and over 200 families for Safeway. Don't forget, you have to re-sign up EVERY year! If you haven't signed yours up yet, please contact Karen Miner at 410-730-8173 or karen@nonsanity.com...or you can go to the grocery stores and pick up a form to fill out. Our school codes are 01016 for Giant and 6676809 for Safeway. Something to keep in mind: each family only earns a small amount for the school each year but *together* we were able to raise \$5000 last year and just by purchasing the foods we always do!

And the winners for this year's drawing are: Daryoush Nawabi's family and Coleen Wilbert's family! Congratulations and check your child's backpack for your grocery store gift card!!

Target (www.target.com)

Did you know that Target donates millions of money to school across the country through their Take Charge of Education program? If you own a Target credit card, all you have to do is call or visit their website to get your card signed-up.

Only Available Nights?

We have the perfect opportunity for you. Swansfield PTA needs to send two representatives to the county-level PTA council. The PTACHC meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm. We would like to have the representatives attend these PTACHC meetings and then come to PTA meetings to share what is going on at the county level. PTACHC serves 71 Howard County PTAs who, through advocacy, support the mission of PTA. Can you spare one night a month to represent Swansfield and all our great PTA endeavors? Please contact Jen Mallo at jenmallo@verizon.net or 410-884-1938.

Did you know?

Joining the PTA does not mean that you have to do any work...You can pay your \$6/person and let your money start working for you and your child. If you can volunteer—great! We can use the help, if not just let your child know that you joined the PTA so they can continue to enjoy things like striders, cool assemblies, and the Carson Room.

To learn more about our PTA and the wonderful events planned this year, come to the next PTA meeting on October 8th 2009 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. and bring a friend! Childcare for children 4 and older is provided for free.

Thank You for a Successful Back To School Night

Wow! We had over **200 kids and 300 adults** over two nights show up to hear more about the upcoming school year! Your attendance at BTSN demonstrates our community's commitment to the school, the teachers and to our children. Collectively, we are a driving force behind Swansfield's success!

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Don't Forget!

**Coffee and Dessert with Administration
at 7 PM—a roundtable dialogue**

Wednesday, September 30th

Market Day Pickup at 5-6 pm

Wednesday, September 30th

Walk to School Day

Wednesday, October 7th

Family Fun Run

Wednesday, October 15th

Coming Soon – After School Classes!

Last Days to Buy Spirit Wear

Act fast if you want to purchase spirit wear as orders are due September 30! An order form can be found on the Swansfield PTA website: www.swansfield.com.

We have looked high and low to find the most affordable prices and are not making any profit on the sales. This is not a fundraiser, but rather an opportunity for everyone to show how much they love our school, and look cool at the same time. Do you have any questions? Please contact: Jennifer_whiddon@hcpss.org