

WIA Samachar



Volume 1, Issue 4

Dec 2008

Message from the President

Dear WIA members,
Greetings!

As we get ready to bid farewell to the year 2008, there are quite a few people who deserve mention for helping to make it so memorable. On behalf of our Board members, I would like to thank all WIA members for supporting our community which grows stronger every year, by your presence at all our events. Our dedicated Board members also deserve thanks, as their constant effort throughout the year has been a major factor in the flourishing of our organization. I am grateful to them for their unconditional support and enthusiasm.

By the time an event or activity is ready to be unveiled in front of you, countless hours of preparation, labor, and overall effort have gone into ensuring that it will be a success. While the final event may have only a

handful of names and faces identified with it, make no mistake – there are many more unnamed, unrecognized contributors who, through their selfless actions, are integral to the event’s success. These contributors are our volunteers, and if I do not acknowledge them, I would not be doing justice to the backbone of our organization. My hats off to them for their unselfish and dedicated service to the good of our community.

Next, I must mention the efforts of our children who take part in contests, tournaments and performances, and inevitably all of the parents behind them who tirelessly support and help them prepare and practice for events, alongside them in every way to execute our plans. Without execution, visions and plans will result in nothing. I salute them for any

success we have achieved during our time as the Board.

This year we introduced various Committees. I humbly request all the members to give a little of your time in the area of your expertise at least once a year. As we near the closing of this past year of activities, I am sincerely grateful to the community for this opportunity to serve as President and I do hope we made a difference. I wish the new Board members all the best in their endeavours. Finally, I wish you all a Very Happy New Year! Peace on earth and good will to mankind!!

Chandrakala Gupta



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Send your contributions to :
newsletter@woodlandsindiaassociation.org

All issues of the newsletters are available at the official WIA website:

Notes from the Editors

In this issue we bring to you the prize winning essays and drawings of our youth at the Art and Essay Writing Competitions, held on September 27, 2008 by WIA.

One of the highlights of this year’s events was the Youth Talent Show where 17 of the 29 Indian states were showcased by the kids in a unique “Bharat Yatra”. We bring to you a special report by Suveena Guglani on Bharat Yatra.

Dear Readers,

WIA wishes its member families a very happy holiday season, and a very happy new year.

The Annual Dinner was held on Dec 6th, which hosted a Fancy Dress Competition for adults. Swati Talwalker writes a report on the Annual Dinner and Dance. Enjoy! And finally as we make our resolutions, we recognize that “A New Years Resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.” Happy 2009.

Suveena and Aparna

Tis Essay Reading Time...

**Ages 5-8:
First Place**

**Ages 10-13
First Place**

Topic: If you could be a character in a fairy tale, which one would it be and what would you change?
Winner: **Maya Krishnan**
(Age Group: 5-8)

Topic: Write about your experience and learning from HURRICANE IKE.
Winner: **Manasi Joshi**
(Age Group: 10-13)

If I could be a character in a fairy tale I would be a mouse with super powers! I could be so small nobody would see me. And my super power could be flicking and throwing cheese at anybody who hurts me! I would have a mouse hole to crawl into and it could be my secret hiding place. In my secret hiding place I could have a lab with all of this spy equipment in it so I can spy on people and see what they are doing. And I could also have maid service so when ever I'm hungry I would get a whole pound of cheese! And also I could be able to fly!

That is why I'd be a mouse with superpowers!

*-Maya Krishnan
Grade 3
Buckalew Elementary School*

My story begins long ago when the great philosopher, Seneca said, "Things that are hard to bear are sweet to remember."

In my opinion nothing is more true than this when it comes to Hurricane Ike. During the hurricane a few trees on our heavily forested street fell. None of the houses on our street sustained heavy damage. To my family and I, the hardest part was living without electricity, which we were extremely dependent on.

Hurricane Ike left us with no electricity and no air conditioning. Hard to bear as it was, the boys, girls, parents, grandparents and even babies in our neighborhood made it a time to remember. Our neighborhood became a neighborhood from a storybook. The immense heat

made it near impossible to stay inside so, the people stayed outside and were greeted with a pleasant breeze. Neighbors helped each other and children made new friends. This was a nice time to bike down a street and see people talking and laughing. This was the perfect time to go for a stroll with your friend and be introduced to a new person you had never seen before.

Hurricane Ike brought our neighborhood together and let us spend time outside instead of inside, cooped up with a computer or TV.

At home I read by the brightest light possible. Stretched out on a swing or perched on a park bench, the sun shone brightly and brought my book to life.

I watched people retreat into their homes, pondering on the events of their day. Our sky turned yellow.

Then pink.

Then green.

Then the darkest hue of blue so I couldn't see my book. I walked down the stairs and into the dining room where we ate our dinner by candlelight. The food was wonderful after a long day.

After dinner, I walked into the living room with a candle in my hand. It shone on my piano where I seated myself.

My fingers pestered the piano keys, raising smooth buttery tones. I pondered on my day as I watched the flame dance on the candle. I fell into the music and in the background heard my family talking animatedly about their day.

Now as I search the depths of my mind, I think, Hurricane Ike brought something more than destruction. Destruction - which was a minority for us - might be a reasonable price to pay for our neighbors actually meeting their neighbors for the first time, those evening gatherings in the park. The hurricane made me realize how much happiness I could find in our neighborhood. Now as I ponder on those sunlit days, floating with laughter, and those candlelit evenings playing piano, I think that maybe more good than bad came from this. Maybe it wasn't such a bad thing that this hurricane hit our neighborhood. People may say that the hurricane was horrible, terrible, devastating -I believe them. But, our neighborhood came through unscathed and brought us closer. Thinking now, I truly believe and understand Seneca when he said, "Things that are hard to bear are sweet to remember."

*- Manasi Joshi
Grade 7, Knox Junior High*

Art Contest Winner-Age Group:12 & above



Topic: Scenes from Indian folklore/festivals.
Winner: Vibhav Ganesh, Grade 9, Academy of Science & Technology

Art Contest Winner- Age Group: 8-11



Topic: Scenes from Indian folklore/festivals.
Winner: Maya Krishnan, Grade 3, Buckalew Elementary

Ages 14 + First Place

Topic: At this pivotal point in life, it's important to look forward and think about where you're headed, but that can be greatly affected by the things you have done up until now. How do you think your decisions so far have set you on the right path for the future that you want?

Winner: **Sneha Centala** Age Group: 14

I have many times been asked the same question, "What exactly do you want to do with your life?" Both my peers and elders have discussed this with me and are not disappointed with the answer I provide them. For the past six or seven years, I have had a long term goal of doing great in high school, going off to a well known college and entering a thrilling career in medicine, specifically neurology. Finally, I am at the point in my life where everything I do matters; my grades, activities, and the ways I bring out the best in myself. Now I want to know, does everything I have done in life matter, or just the things I do now, in high school?

Throughout my whole life, both my parents have set wonderful examples and have helped me strive to reach my dreams. They have always given me the best and expected the best from me. As they have pushed me all along, I have begun to finally realize how important every minute detail is. I remember, when I was in sixth grade, I was so excited to enter junior high and have more freedom and choices to make. I was ecstatic when I got a letter in the mail allowing me to take all advanced classes. Now, I realize how much those classes really have impacted me and prepared me for the high school and even college courses I am presently taking. I also am glad, due to my parents' wishes, that I have been continuing with my piano lessons and advancing those skills. I am very happy that I do not have the need to regret these few decisions I have made.

I have many times been under great pressure and have thought about how much easier it would be if I just take it easier and veer off the path I have been following for the past 15 years. Then, I contemplate the consequences and decide not to. Making these decisions is not easy and have many times been influenced by the competitive environment that surrounds me as well as my peers. I am grateful for having both in my life. Without them I would probably not be where I am right now. I have great grades, am actively involved in three clubs at school- HOSA, Leo Club, and MU Alpha Theta-, have a job where I have the opportunity to help young children become successful in school, and have a wonderful network of family and friends to support me. When I was in eighth grade, I recollect applying for the Academy of Science and Technol-

A Big Thanks to Volunteers in 2008

Youth Volunteers

Aashika Kushwaha

Ajay Singh

Anushri Kushwaha

Arijit Bhuyan

Ashray Gurugunti

Indy Shukla

Bhavya Gurugunti

Manasi Joshi

Natasha Dhuldhoya

Nirav Suraiya

Nitin Adoni

Reema Patel

Smita Centala

Sneha Centala

Vibhav Ganesh

Vivek Pakanati

Adult Volunteers:

Alka Kushwaha

Dev Talwalker

Geetha Somasundar

Harish and Ragini Gandhi

Lata Joshi

Nimish Dhuldhoya

Pranita Suraiya

Pushpa Kembaiyan

Radhika Adoni

Ravi Bayas

Satya Gupta

Shanti Mukerji

Shoba Centala

Swati Pande

Vikas Gurugunti

ogy. I had gotten very stressed out about the whole process and thought about what would happen to my goals of doing well in high school if I was not accepted. During that time, having my especially supportive family and friends helped me. And when I received the recognition of acceptance, they were all there to congratulate and celebrate with me. I feel that getting into the Academy of Science and Technology has given me various opportunities like being able to speak with doctors and even a neurologist. It has also helped me plan out my high school career well and be prepared for my future.

Even though I have many positive decisions that will help me attain my goals, I have also made some negative ones. I have enjoyed playing tennis and violin for many years. But I have not been keeping up and practicing either of those much. Though my father has told me a countless number of times to go and play, I have always found some excuse and now, I am stuck here. I regret the choices I made, but I hope to redeem myself through other activities and beginning to prepare a schedule to force myself to participate in these. But through mistakes, I have learned many lessons, all of which will also benefit me in my future decisions.

Everything I have chosen in my life from playing sports to entering a challenging high school curriculum have impacted my past, present, and most importantly, my future. I have the feeling that I am following the correct path by making the correct decisions. With the assistance of my parents, peers, and pressured society, I have become a successful student and plan on being even more successful for the remainder of my life. My past and present define the vast expanse of my future.

- Sneha Centala,
Grade 10, Academy of Science and Technology

Coloring Contest Winner- Age Group: 4-7



This was a coloring contest, and the medium used was crayons.

Winner: Ashray Gurugunti, Grade 2,
Deretchin Flex School



Unity in Diversity

By Suveena Guglani

We are all immigrants that have left behind our motherland to begin life afresh in a different country. Yet the sights, sounds and smells of India have never left our minds and hearts. So, when the Bharat Yatra came around, it was a welcome trip down memory lane. The familiar WIA Annual Childrens Talent Show was given a new twist; Bharat Yatra. The idea began as a brainchild of Board member Aparna Gurugunti and the rest of the Board Members enthusiastically supported it. Originally scheduled for September 20th, the Yatra had to be postponed due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Ike. India, has always prided herself on her unity in spite of the diversity, so each state would be represented with a collage highlighting the essence of the state. Participants were invited to create trifolds, showcasing the richness of the culture and heritage of each region. The floor came alive with the colors and sounds as we had children dressed in traditional clothing native to the state knowledgeably talking about the different regions. Saffron and green decorated the tables and the centerpieces created by our very own Pallabita Bhuyan set the tone for the patriotic theme of the evening. During the Bharat Yatra, visitors got a chance to experience some culinary delicacies from different regions, and refresh their memories with interesting facts. 17 of the 29 Indian states were beautifully represented by enthusi-



astic participants. An Indian event would not be complete without the requisite music and dance. So we had the talent show where several talented youngsters performed dances and songs and skits from various regions in the country. From the musical notes of Karnataka to the prayers from the different regions of India, every performance made a statement. The comedic timeout came from the "Sweet nothings of Kittu mama and Pattu mami" which had us laughing even though we did not understand some of the language and of course the "Commercial Break". No showcase of India would have been complete without the "Dandia" from Gujarat enthusiastically performed by the young teenage boys or the foot tapping "Dhol beats" of Punjab. The young teenage performers did full justice to the vigorous high energy Punjabi dances. The nostalgic trip down memory lane finally came to a close with the soulful rendering of Vande Mataram and a patriotic medley. Dinner followed with snacks and foods from various parts of the country giving people a welcome opportunity to sample a range of cuisines from the South Indian Idlis to the North Indian Samosas and the West Indian Khaman and Kachoris. An event of this magnitude would not have been possible without the help of the WIA members and volunteers and WIA would like to extend their sincere appreciation for all the volunteers that helped with the event.

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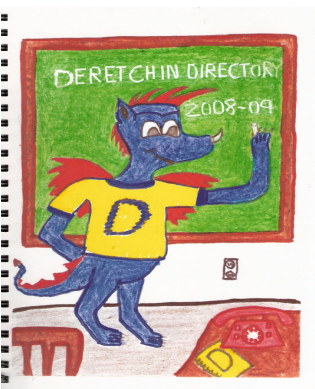
भारत यात्रा

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Creative Mind: 1st prize, 2nd time in a row

Obituary



Remember me guys? I'm the same dragon that made Mohit the winner

Mohit Talwalker (Grade 4) won the first place in a drawing contest held at his school and his work was chosen for the front cover design of their school telephone directory, distributed to the families by the Deretchin School P.T.O.

Shri Dilipkumar K. Mehta

(1924 - 2008), beloved father of Snehal Mehta, passed away on December 3, 2008 at Memorial Hermann Hospital. Snehal Mehta served as the President of Woodlands India Association in the past, and he says, "My father's presence and smiling friendly face will be greatly missed. We pray that his soul rests in eternal peace".



Hilarious MATH

contributed by Bhavya Gurugunti

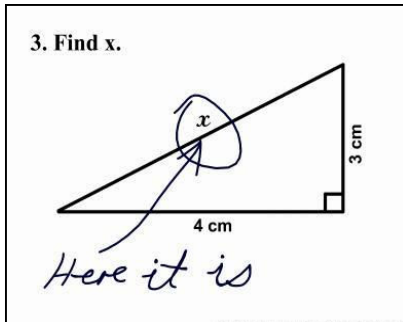
$$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} = \sqrt{\quad}$$

Solving equation by one Blunder:

$$\frac{1}{n} \sin x = ?$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sin x =$$

$$six = 6$$



After explaining to a student through various lessons and examples that:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 8} \frac{1}{x-8} = \infty$$

I tried to check if she really understood that, so I gave her a different example. This was the result:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{1}{x-5} = \infty$$

PETER

1.21

(b) Expand

$$(a+b)^n$$

$$= (a + b)^n$$

$$= (a + b)^n$$

$$= (a + b)^n$$

etc...

Congratulations to the newly elected WIA Board that will take charge from Jan 2009 onwards. The new board members are:

- Anil Adoni (President),
- Bharat Suraiya (Vice President),
- Prabhakar Centala (Secretary),
- Lalita Koduru (Treasurer),
- Mallika Iyer (Board Member),
- Prakash Sajja (Board Member),
- Sandhya Reddy (Board Member),
- Radha Srinivasan (Board Member)
- and Chandrakala Gupta (Past President and Advisor).

Showcasing

Did you know Mrs. Pallabita Bhuyan served on the board consecutively for four years? She joined the board in 2005 as board member, continued as a member in 2006.

In 2007 she became the President and stayed on the board the following year, as a member in an advisory capacity.



If you have enjoyed seasonal, color and theme coordinated decorations at WIA events she was the one behind it all, especially Talent

show table decorations. She hand painted those Indian flags on the gift bags she used as center pieces.

She is a pro at conducting contests for children. Having done it for the association few times in a row, she is more of a fixture your children will recognize readily.

Although she leaves the Board as a member we hope her signature work will continue through years to come.

Say "Hello" to her next time you see her around.

Thank you Pallabita !

If you don't see your name here it is because we do not know about your achievements. If you have sent in a contribution that is not featured, it will appear in a future issue. To be featured, send in your contributions to newsletter@woodlandsindiaassociation.org

Tennis Tournament Results:

Place	Boys below 11 years:	Boys above 11 years
1	Varun Hari	Adithya Hari
2	Rish Bhatnagar	Rohan Hari
3	Nikhil Kanzarkar	Nirav Suraiya
4	Rakshit Kanzarkar	Nathan Koduru
5	Surya Chinamuthevi	

Chess Tournament Results:

Place	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
1	Vibhav Ganesh	Pratyush Sai Potu	Praveen Kumar	Praneal Joshi
2	Vikram Krishnan	Apsara Mitra	Yashi Prasad	Ananya Potu
3	Rish Bhatnagar	Aishwarya Mitra	Divya Srinivasan	Bhavya Gupta
4		Vidisha Ganesh	Aashika Kushwaha	SriVaishnavi Rayarao
5		Manasi Joshi	Nikhil Adoni	Samyu Hsri
6		Nikhita Kumar		Surya Chinamuthevi

Farewell to 2008 with Annual Dinner and Dance Swati Talwalker

Yet another fun filled, eventful, creative and productive WIA year came to an end on Saturday Dec 6, when it celebrated the Annual Dinner and Dance with its member families. It was a culmination of WIA celebrations for the year 2008 and what a grand finale it was!

Beautiful decorations, lip smacking food, impromptu stage performances by some of the most talented and “daring” (must we say) contestants, an amazing DJ with foot tapping music and a “walk down the memory lane” projector presentation were some of

the unforgettable highlights of this remarkable day.



Let’s not forget the crowd! Dazzling sarees, fetching evening dresses, beautiful smiles brightened the evening thanks to our lovely WIA ladies. The gentlemen were hardly to be left be-

hind in their handsome dinner jackets walking tall in their equally charming attitude. I must say we make a very elegant WIA family. And family it is indeed, with little rug rats running around and the older kids keeping an eye on them, with every member in the audience encouraging the one on the stage, with every old member welcoming new members and with everyone keeping a beautiful decorum to make the show a wonderful success.

A big standing ovation to the board members and volunteers who made this year so memorable.

With Best Compliments From Your Board



Sitting Front Row, from left to right: Aina Bayas (Treasurer) , Pallabita Bhuyan (Past President-2007), Chandrakala Gupta (President), Aparna Gurugunti (Board Member), Suveena Guglani (Board Member)

Standing from left to right: Prabhakar Centala (Secretary), Kumar Kembaiyan (Board Member), Anil Adoni (Vice- President), Bharat Suraiya (Board Member)