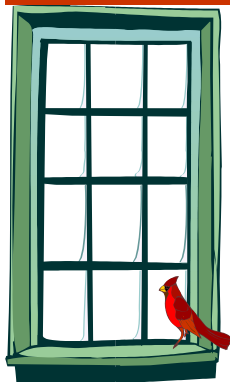


January
2011



MATOAKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bird's Eye View

From Our PTA President, Leanne Conrad

The PTA has scheduled some fun family activities to get you through the cold months of Winter. We hope that you can make it to the William & Mary Basketball Game on Saturday, January 8th. William & Mary will be playing James Madison University in an action packed game at 7 p.m. The Matoaka 5th grade chorus will be singing the national anthem and there will be an autograph session after the game with the basketball players. All Matoaka students wearing Matoaka spirit wear will get in to the game free of charge.

We are looking for some volunteers to help with

some projects this winter. The PTA is working with Mr. Spence to spruce up the wedge in to a natural science center called "The Living Wedge" (that's the triangle shaped hallway between the 2nd and 3rd grade pods). More information on this project is included in this newsletter. We are holding a vendor fair on February 12th as a fundraiser. If you sell arts & crafts, jewelry or anything of that nature, please contact Crystal Thibeault at crysthibeault@cox.net to reserve a booth space.

Finally, the Virginia PTA in coordination with the Virginia Lottery is taking nominations for

Super Teacher of the Year. Eight Super Teachers will receive \$2000 credit at The Supply Room Companies and \$2000 from the Virginia Lottery. We have so many outstanding teachers at Matoaka that are worthy of Super Teacher of the Year. If you would like to nominate a teacher, please go to www.valottery.com/promotion/teacher or to the Matoaka PTA website to fill out a nominations form. Details are also included in this newsletter. Mailed nominations must be postmarked by February 14th.

Sincerely,
Leanne Conrad,

Calendar of Events

January	8:	Family Fun Night (William & Mary Basketball Game)
	20:	PTA Meeting, 7 pm
	21:	WISC/Galaxy Tag Spirit Night, 4:30 – 8:30 PM (\$5/galaxy tag game, \$6 unlimited bounce house)
	22:	Deadline for February Bird's Eye View Newsletter
	24:	PTAC Reflections Award Ceremony, DJ Montague
February	12:	PTA Vendor Fair
	17 :	Barnes & Noble/California Tortilla Spirit Night
	22 :	Deadline for March Bird's Eye View Newsletter
	24:	PTA Meeting, Media Center, 7 PM

Spirit Night

WISC & Galaxy Tag are teaming up with our PTA on Friday, January 21st from 4:30-8:30 PM for a Spirit Night. WISC will be offering a ton of jumping fun with their bounce houses. A bounce house pass will cost \$6/child for the entire evening. Galaxy Tag will also be open to Matoaka students at a reduced rate of \$5/person per game. A portion of the proceeds will go to the PTA.

Hope to see you there!

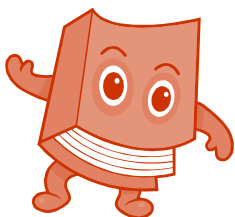


Another! Spirit Night

On Thursday, February 17th we will be holding a California Tortilla & Barnes & Noble Spirit Night, 5 PM to 7:30 PM.

Mention Matoaka at California Tortilla and we'll receive 15% of the proceeds.

After supper there will be singing presentations by students in the 2nd Grade as directed by Mrs. Neely, beginning at 6 PM staggered in 10-15 minute increments.



In addition, there will be a story time with Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Hurley at 6:30 and 7:00 PM.

Matoaka Wedge evolves into "The Living Wedge"

Matoaka students and families may have already noticed a slow but steady transformation happening in Matoaka's open floor space referred to as "The Wedge". An idea of 5th grade teacher Mr. John Spence is now moving forward to become a reality.

Mr. Spence envisioned the space becoming a nature-themed, living-science center, based on the exhibits and lessons of the Virginia Living Museum. He has begun work to transform it into "The Living Wedge", an educational and relaxing area to be in. He has already set up a large fish tank, 2 reptile tanks, and a tadpole tank. Over the coming months the "Living Wedge" will be expanded even further to include scenic backdrops for all the tanks, a painted wall mural, pillar "trees", nature-themed rugs, bean bag chairs, and a science book corner. Matoaka is grateful to Mr. Spence for working to make his vision of a mini Living Museum a reality!

The PTA is looking for volunteers to help transform the space, the first step of which will be turning the 4 pillars into "trees", similar to the one in the school's front lobby.

We are also looking for donations of taxidermy or natural science items that could be used as exhibits. Please contact Christian Dunn at 903-4130 or DunnCLEigh@yahoo.com if you would like to help with the project.



COUNSELORS' CORNER

Post Holiday Hassles and a Fresh Start for the New Year!

Parents...now that our busy holiday schedule is over, we no longer have some of the stress that comes along with it that can effect how we parent. Now is a great time as we start the New Year to focus on family goals and routines to help eliminate frustrations and problems that result from them.

Discipline can be discouraging, humiliating and harmful to a child's esteem and affect. True discipline is encouraging--teaching and guiding children--relying on a variety of constructive, positive and helpful approaches.

Make sure to keep your emotions in check, which can be difficult when frustrated and angry. Leave the room to pull yourself together--take deep breaths and think about what you really want to accomplish. Don't wait until your anger and the child's behaviors are out of control.

Having consistent limits and expectations can help prevent problems from escalating. Regular family meetings allow for everyone's voice to be heard, and collaborative problem solving. Issues that arise throughout the week can be jotted down on an "agenda" and later addressed at the meeting.

Here are 2 websites for additional information--
<http://www.parents.com/kids/discipline/strategies/> and
<http://parenting-ed.org/parent-handouts-sec3.asp>

We're here to help if you would like to contact us for positive discipline strategies.

Jennifer Dey Smith, M.Ed.
Professional School Counselor
Matoaka Elementary School
(757) 564-4010



Get out your red, gold and green (yes, green!) for our next
Family Fun Night!

Saturday, January 8 will be Matoaka Night at the W&M Basketball game! The game is scheduled to begin at 7 :00 p.m.

Students wearing Matoaka spirit wear will get into the game for free and will receive a Tribe gift! Our very own 5th Grade Chorus will perform the national anthem, and we hope to see our Matoaka Cardinal out there enjoying the fun. Students are also invited to stay after the game for an autograph session with the players.

Advance tickets for family members can be purchased for \$7 each by sending cash or check to the school by Wednesday, January 5, with student's name and teacher's name (remember that your Matoaka student(s) will not require a ticket). Please indicate if you would prefer your tickets go home with your student, or be held for pick up at the game (the PTA will have a will call area near the box office). Tickets can also be purchased at the door from the W&M box office for \$10 each.

Hope to see you
there, cheering
with your Matoaka
friends for The
Tribe!



Do you know a super teacher at Matoaka?

NOMINATE A SUPER TEACHER FOR THE VIRGINIA LOTTERY SUPER TEACHER AWARDS

January 3 - February 14, 2011

Eight winning teachers will receive \$2000 credit at The Supply Room Companies and \$2000 from the Virginia Lottery.

Anyone can nominate a teacher. Any adult, 18 years or older, may nominate a teacher and they may nominate more than one teacher. Nominations can be submitted by mail or online.

Winners are selected on the strength of your nomination. All nominations must include a 500 or fewer word essay. Teachers will be judged on the following criteria:

- Passion and commitment to the teaching profession
- Innovation and creativity in the classroom
- Efforts to involve parents and families in their students' education

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE NOMINATIONS: To nominate a teacher online visit www.valottery.com/teacher and follow the instructions.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAILED IN NOMINATIONS: To nominate a teacher by mail, please use the form on the next page and mail it to:

Virginia Lottery
Super Teacher Awards
900 E. Main Street, 13th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

**Nominations must be postmarked or submitted online
by February 14th, 2011.**



Nomination Form

TEACHER INFORMATION (please print)

Teacher's Name: _____
Teacher's Email Address: _____
Grade/Subjects: _____
School Name: _____
School Address: _____
City/County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
School Phone Number: _____
Principal's Name: _____

YOUR INFORMATION (please print)

Name: _____
Email Address: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____
Relationship to Teacher: _____
Signature: _____

- Please type or print your essay on a separate sheet of paper using 500 words or fewer.
- Type or write your name and birthdate at the top of both the nomination form and the nomination essay page.
- Please retain a copy of the nomination for your records, as materials will not be returned.
- Please DO NOT submit any additional materials. They will not be used in the judging process.
- To nominate a teacher online, visit www.valottery.com/teacher and follow instructions.
- Find official rules at: www.valottery.com/teacher
- Please mail completed nomination forms to: Virginia Lottery

Super Teacher Awards
900 E. Main Street, 13th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219



Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/valottery



Follow us on Twitter
twitter.com/virginialottery



ABOUT THE VIRGINIA LOTTERY The Virginia Lottery generates approximately \$1.2 million per day for Virginia's K-12 public schools. Operating entirely on revenue from the sale of Lottery products, rather than tax dollars, the Virginia Lottery raised more than \$430.2 million for Virginia's public schools in fiscal year 2010. That represents about 8 percent of state funding for public education in Virginia. For more information, visit www.valottery.com. Follow the Virginia Lottery on Facebook and Twitter. Please play responsibly.

In Good Health... from your School Nurse Mrs. Chandler, RN

Tips to Stay Healthy during Flu Season

Flu epidemics runs from approximately late October to March. A flu vaccine is now recommended for all children older than 6 months of age and the flu mist (inhaled up the nose) is for 5-49 as an alternative. The vaccine this year contains 3 strains that are predicted to be prominent this season. Just because you had the vaccine or flu last year does not mean that you are immune. The best time to get the flu shot is October and November but it will be given later as well. There have been few cases so far, but it is sure to change.



Be a germ stopper:

- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and wash hands after
- Instead of a hand or tissue, point your nose to your shoulder, lift your arm and cough into your arm
- Proper hand washing is the best way to avoid getting many illnesses
- Get your flu shot



If you get the flu, go to the doctor immediately to confirm the diagnosis and get medicine that shortens the recovery time. Please keep children home as they are still contagious until 24 hours fever-free without medicine.

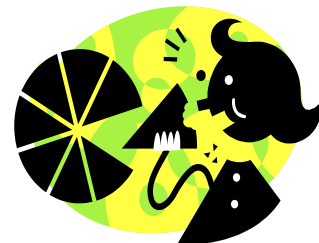
Matoaka moms! I just registered my and my husband's Martins cards to get points for Matoaka, and found that even after adding our 2 there are only 10 cards registered! It is really easy to register: all you need is your card number and the first 3 digits of your last name. Please consider it!

Go to www.MartinsAPlus.com
Go under the Designate Tab
Matoaka is school # 03061



Character Trait of the Month: Fairness

Fairness means taking turns, sharing, and listening to what others have to say. I show fairness when I take only my share.
I am fair when I play by the rules.



**2011 MATOAKA ELEMENTARY PTA VENDOR FAIR
REGISTRATION FORM**

Date: **FEBRUARY 12, 2011** Time: **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
Space Size: Approximately **10' x 10'** Space Fee: **\$25.00 per space**
Registration to be received no later than January 15, 2011

Company Name: _____

Point of
Contact: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____



Type of Business/Art/Craft: (please send pictures or a brochure that reflect your items, or list a web site where your items can be viewed):

_____ No. of Spaces Desired Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to MES PTA and **mail to: Crystal Thibeault, 4101 Earl Lee Cove, Williamsburg, 23188.** Registration fees will not be refunded unless the vendor is not selected to participate in the Vendor Fair. The event will only be cancelled due to severe weather. You will be responsible for bringing your own table(s), chairs will be provided. All booths must be displayed in a professional manner & tables covered. Set up will begin at **7:30 a.m.** **All booths must be ready by 9:00 a.m.** Please notify Crystal Thibeault at 757.604.6745 or crysthibeault@cox.net if you will not be attending, after registering, so that your space can be re-assigned.

Thank you for your interest! We look forward to having you at our First Annual Matoaka Elementary Vendor Fair.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



VIDEO CONTEST

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Get your camcorders ready, assemble a team (or work alone), come up with a healthy message and create a winning video!

Prizes

- 1st Place \$175.00 per team (limit \$50 per student; if only one student participates, the total prize is \$50)**
- 2nd Place \$40.00 per team**
- 3rd Place \$30 per team**

- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place prizes will be awarded for best videos in the K-2nd grade level, 3rd-5th grade level, middle school level, and high school level, for a total of 12 awards.
- Per Finance policy, all prizes will be in the form of gift cards

- Videos must promote healthy eating &/or physical activity.
- Videos must be 30-60 seconds long
- Winning videos (& runners up) will be broadcast on local TV Channel 47.
- Act now! The deadline is JANUARY 14TH, 2011 @ 4:00 PM.
- For contest rules, required format & forms go to www.wjcc.k12.va.us, at the bottom of the site, see "Inside Schools", then "SHIP Video Contest 2011". For more information call Susan Stewart @ 220-5351.

This contest is sponsored by the School Health Initiative Program (SHIP).



SHIP is a partnership between WJCC Schools & the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation that funds SHIP.



Thanks for sending in you Box Tops! We submitted \$830 worth of box tops in the end of October. Matoaka should receive their check any day now!

A recap of the winners for the year: Mrs. Reeher in September, Mrs. Chantry in October and Mrs. Eaton in November. The prize for December is a face-painting party during the lunch hour. If we have any face-painters out there that would like to help out, please contact Karen Quinlan at karenblades1976@yahoo.com.

Please note that we do not collect Campbell's Soup Labels or other reward programs.

There will be a PTAC Reflections Award Ceremony for all students (and their family members) who made it to the PTAC level. PTAC level winners will be awarded prizes. All participants will receive a certificate; school board members will be present for the celebration. Light refreshments will be served.

Matoaka Elementary School

PTA[®]
everychild. onevoice.[®]

WHAT: PTAC Reflections Award Ceremony
WHEN: 1/24/11 @ 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: DJ Montague Elementary gym

Newsletter submissions can be made via email at loralee13@verizon.net. The deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 22nd of each month. Don't miss the opportunity to spread the word to family, school, staff and PTA members about what's going on in and around our school.

Hunt Family Fiddlers Came To Matoaka!

Students and teachers at Matoaka thoroughly enjoyed a high-powered performance by the Hunt Family Fiddlers, an award-winning family of fiddlers, Irish step dancers and singers. The family of nine performed Celtic, bluegrass, inspirational and popular tunes and brought students and teachers on stage to join in the performance. Clint and Sandy Hunt, along with their seven children have won numerous awards in fiddle, Irish dance and singing contests around the nation and the world.



Bird's Eye View

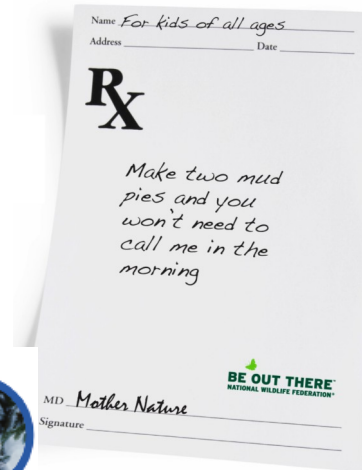
FIELD TRIP NEWS

The First Grade took a field trip to the tree farm, done in conjunction with the James City County Master Gardeners. The students learned about what trees need to survive, as well as science-based terms such as deciduous, evergreen, oxygen and carbon dioxide.



Earth Corner: Don't Forget to Play Outside

Once the weather turns colder our inclination is to stay inside, but there are wonderful animal and plant hibernation techniques to observe. Consider spending even just half an hour at a time to walk around your neighborhood



Be a Wildlife Watch Explorer!

Get outside and look for wildlife in your backyard, community and local parks.
Write down the different animals, plants and nature you see, and then visit
www.nwf.org/watch to report your sightings, share stories and even upload photos!

Mammals

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Birds

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Invertebrates

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Amphibians, Reptiles and Fish

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Natural Phenomena

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Wildflowers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Trees and Shrubs

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future
National Wildlife Federation • 11100 Wildlife Center Drive • Reston, VA 20190
www.nwf.org/wildlifewatch

Photo Credits: Frog, Corbis; Birds, Charlie Anthonio; Eagle, Corbis; Hawk, Pheodora





Baby Sock Snowman

- 2 pairs baby socks, one white & one colored
- Small scraps of colored felt
- Cotton wool
- Needle and thread
- Scissors

Stuff one of the white socks with cotton wool. This will form the snowman's body. Above this bulge, stuff it with a white and a colored sock rolled up together (with the white sock on the outside), to form the head. Roll the remaining colored sock up to make a hat. Twist the end of the white sock and fold it over. Pull the colored sock on to cover the top of the white sock and to make the snowman's hat. Tie the silver ribbon around the baby snowman's neck as a scarf. Cut eyes, nose, mouth and buttons from scraps of felt and stitch them on to make the snowman's features.

—www.original-kids-crafts.com

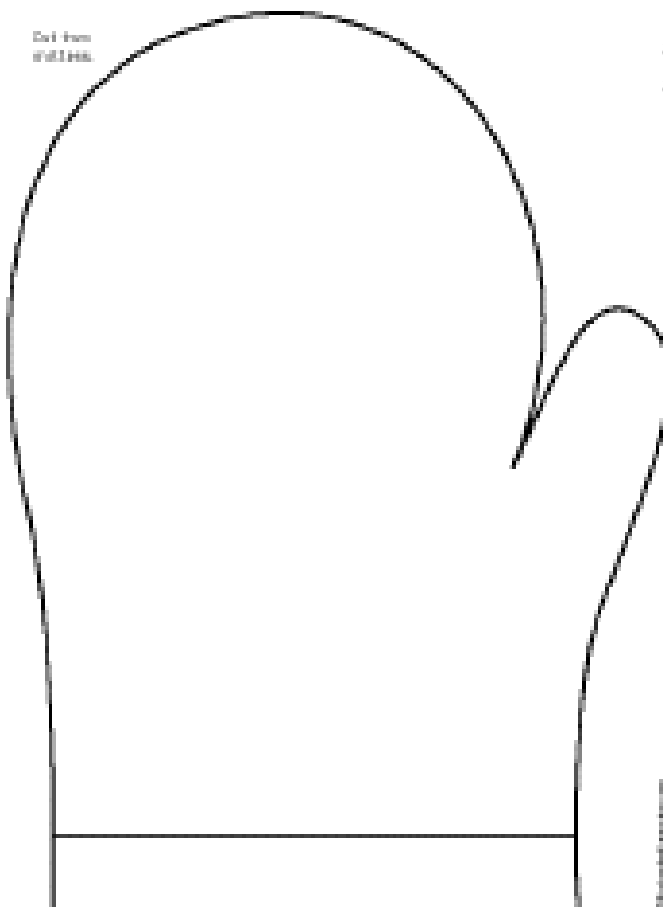
Crafty Winter Kids

When it's just too cold to stay out any longer & their eyeballs are turning square from watching too much television, try a wintery craft to generate some warmth and quiet family time: cut & paste, read a book, and sew.

Print and color a paper mitten, then fill it with the forest animals. This craft accompanies the Ukrainian folktale, **The Mitten**, by Jan Brett.

Cut out the animals and two mittens. Color and decorate the animals and one side of a mitten. To connect to two halves of the mitten, you can staple or glue the edges. If you want to be even craftier, make a series of holes along the edges using a hole punch, then thread a length of yarn through the holes, using a sewing motion. (Remember not to close up the hole where the animals will go in.) You can now put your forest animals in the mitten where they can stay warm!

—enchantedlearning.com



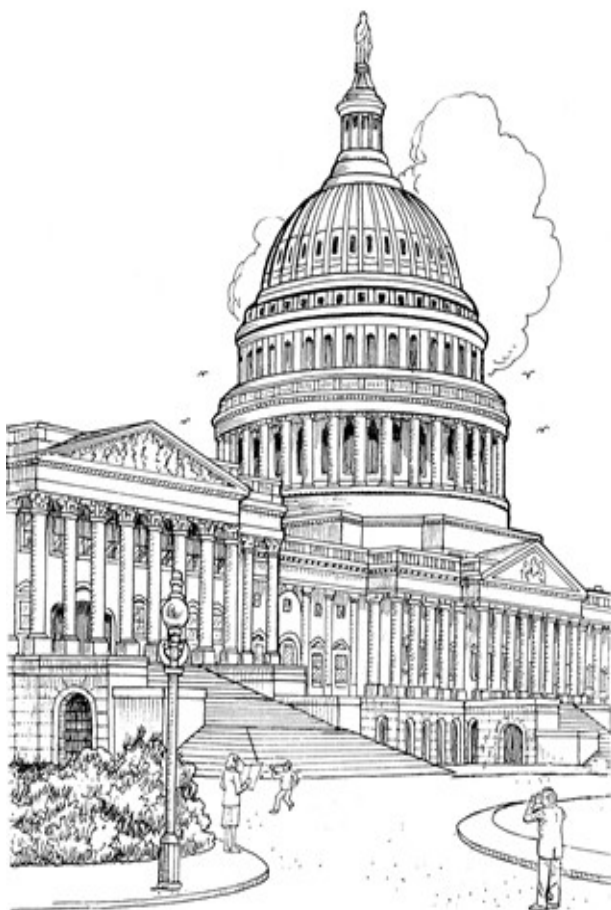
Bird's Eye View



Find the 15 Differences

The United States Capitol building is located in Washington, D.C., on top of Capitol Hill. It houses the meeting chambers of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Spot and circle 15 things that are different between these two pictures of the Capitol building.



4



5