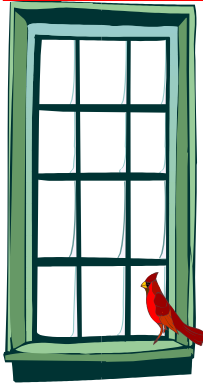


April  
2012



MATOAKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# Bird's Eye View

## From Our PTA President, Erin Otis

WALK-A-THON is this month on the 20<sup>th</sup>! This is one of our two largest fundraisers that enable us to provide the many programs we provide. Come join your child for a day on "the yellow brick road!"

Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000!! There are several opportunities to get involved with this amazing event. For information, see our website [matoaka-pta.org](http://matoaka-pta.org).

Our nominations committee has been hard at work! While several of our committee chair positions have been filled for next year, we still need people to fill Harvest Festival, Publicity and Volunteer Coordinator chair positions.

The nominations committee is still looking for someone to accept a nomination for President, VP of Programs and VP of Fundraising. The deadline for nominations was March 26<sup>th</sup>. We will not be able to hold our election on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Fine Arts night as previously scheduled. The election date is to be determined. Without elected officers, we will not be an operable PTA next year.

If you are interested in any of the open positions please contact me at [otisfam@verizon.net](mailto:otisfam@verizon.net) or 208-867-7643.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warmly,  
Erin Otis,  
PTA President

## Calendar of Events

### April

- 10 – PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 20—Walk-A-Thon
- 22 – Deadline for Bird's Eye View Newsletter
- 26– Fine Arts Night
- 27 – Cultural Arts program, Theatre IV – Jack and the Beanstalk



# We're off to see the cardinal, the wonderful cardinal of Oz!



It's time for our **Walk-a-Thon!** The 5th annual Matoaka Walk-a-Thon will be **Friday, April 20th during the school day.** For those of you new to our school, the walk-a-thon is our largest fundraiser. What's even better is that it doesn't require anyone to buy or sell anything. You simply assist your child in collecting pledge money that supports them walking for 20 - 30 minutes with their class during the school day. Parents are invited to come along to walk or cheer on their walker. Information will come home soon with walking times so that families can join if they are able.

This year our Walk-a-Thon theme is "The Cardinal of Oz" and we hope that our students will walk the yellow brick road that day to help us reach our goal of raising \$10,000. The money goes directly into PTA and school activities and programs such as reading and math programs, professional shows, the school garden, grade-level classroom books, music performances and plays by students, Teacher Appreciation Day and more! This year the funds will help upgrade the school's sound system, which is used for all school performances by our students.

Pledge sheets have already come home in folders. This year we are pleased to announce the addition of online pledging - family and friends can now go to our website ([www.matoaka-pta.org](http://www.matoaka-pta.org)) to make online pledges via credit card or paypal account. Pledges can also be made in cash or by check, and should be sent in with the pledge sheet to your student's teacher.

*Lions and Tigers and Cardinals, Oh My! See you then!*

Contact Tatia Granger at 253-6910 or [tdangran@aol.com](mailto:tdangran@aol.com) & Betty Brittain at 229-3836 or [bettybhomes@cox.net](mailto:bettybhomes@cox.net) for any questions.

### **Teacher Appreciation Week is coming May 7th - 11th!**

The PTA Hospitality committee is planning an exciting week for our teachers and looking forward to showing them how much we appreciate them. We are meeting with the room mothers next week to coordinate our efforts with them to ensure a successful week. A flyer will be sent home to inform families of the plans for the week and how they can contribute. We are hoping everyone will participate in helping to show our wonderful teachers how much we appreciate them! Any

questions? Contact anyone on the Hospitality Committee:

Marbury Abella at mabella201@yahoo.com,

Sue Bornschein at skysharkjb@aol.com,

or Kim Squire at kimsquire@cox.net.

### **Have you ordered your Matoaka car magnet?**

Show your school pride by ordering a magnet today for \$12!  
All proceeds go toward the Matoaka PTA.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to order a Matoaka car magnet for \$12.

Please send in cash or check in the amount of \$12. (Checks should be made out to the Matoaka PTA. Magnets will be sent home in your child's backpack.)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## School Garden News

All six Matoaka Kindergarten classes planted cool weather vegetables in the garden last month. The classes planted peas, broccoli, lettuce and Swiss chard.

A huge thank you to Mrs. Forgit and the Matoaka Nature Club for laying down mulch and planting pansies and candytuft. Last Fall they planted daffodils, crocus and hyacinths which are in full bloom right now.

Appreciation also goes to the Fly family who came out on a rainy weekend in March and weeded the garden. Be on the look out for information on the Matoaka Family Summer Garden Program in May.

If there are any parents that would like to sign up to help in the garden this Spring, please contact Leanne Conrad at [elconrads@aol.com](mailto:elconrads@aol.com).

## Coming to Matoaka on April 27<sup>th</sup>! Jack and the Beanstalk

This musical adaptation is a rollicking retelling of the classic fairy tale. Join our modern-day young hero as he uses his imagination to become the famous Jack from the book he is reading. As he spins the tale of trading the family cow for three magic beans, we watch the giant beanstalk grow and let our imaginations soar as our hero climbs through the clouds to meet an ill-tempered giant, find fabulous treasures and more adventures than you can shake a stalk at.



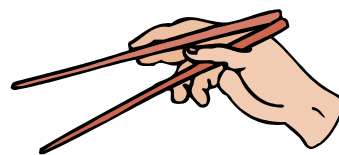
### **April's Character Trait of the Month:**

#### **Compassion**

Compassion means  
being kind and thoughtful toward others.  
By helping others in need,  
show compassion.  
show compassion when  
do kind things for others.

## Pass Along the Fun!

Give each player a set of chopsticks and place an unshelled walnut, an acorn, a grape, and a pea on a small plate next to the oldest player. She begins by using the chopsticks to pass each object, from largest to smallest, to the person on her right, who receives it with chopsticks and passes it along to the next player. The object is to try to get all four objects back to the starting plate without dropping any of them. Players unable to manage the chopsticks can use a teaspoon instead.



—familyfungo.com



## Hummer Feeder

—www.nwf.org

Want to attract hummingbirds to your yard? Make your own hummer feeder using one of the following ideas. Hang your feeder in the shade. Look for a place with trees or bushes nearby to give hummers somewhere to hide and rest between visits.

**Jar Feeder.** Use a nail to poke a 1/8-inch (3-mm) hole in the lid of a clean baby food jar. (Ask an adult to help.) Fill the jar with sugar water and screw on the lid. Add red paint or tape around the hole to attract the birds' attention. Attach wire around the lid to hang the feeder.

**Plastic Bottle Feeder.** In a clean plastic bottle, make a hole about 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the cap. Push a plastic straw through the hole. Fill the bottle with water, turn it upside down, and adjust the straw until water fills it up without spilling out. Empty the bottle and glue the straw in place with waterproof glue. Tie a string around the bottle to hang it, and add a circle of red cardboard or plastic around the straw.

**Frisbee Feeder.** Turn a red Frisbee upside down and fill it with sugar water. Simply set it on a table, or poke holes at the top of the rim and attach wire to hang it.

**Filling Your Hummer Feeder:** Mix ½ cup of sugar with 1 cup of hot water. Stir until the sugar dissolves. Add 1 cup of cold water. You can keep extra sugar water in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. You can also add red food coloring to the water to help attract hummingbirds.



## **8 Tips for Kids Online Safety: Keep Children Safe On the Internet**

By: Linda Sorkin, LFMT/Soul Empowered Coaching

No longer are the days we only have to be concerned with our kids safety while crossing the street, walking to school alone, going out with friends un-chaperoned, driving or even dating! In contrast with the past, our parental awareness must be even more vigilant with the mainstream prevalence of modern technology. Our children are spending increasingly more time online despite the presence of technology already being a staple in their lives. They are inundated with several opportunities to explore social media and the massive cyberspace domain. Often times this happens without our consent or even knowledge of what and where our kids are traveling and exposed on the internet. Given that parents need to be more mindful of online activity, we must acquaint ourselves with strategies to protect and educate children in cyberspace. We can never be too smart when it comes to guarding our kids and giving them opportunities to learn how to navigate and use good judgment online. There are several programs available to help parents with online safety and guidance.

### 8 Tips for Kids Online Safety

1. Initiate conversation with your children about safety and conduct on the internet. Don't wait for your kids to initiate trouble before you step up. Create dialogue to explain the power of the internet and how to protect themselves.
2. Start young. Kids start using computers at 4 or 5. Claim responsibility for teaching formative and appropriate online behavior in and out of the home.
3. Set up parent controls which include filtering and monitoring programs on your computer. Remember, some phones have data packages where kids can access the internet on their own. Also, many new gaming devices

are wireless and can connect to the internet. For example, be aware of what your kids are playing online when using an itouch or ipad. They could feasibly be connected to an inappropriate site, If they are in their room and out of your sight.

4. Listen to them and asses their individual needs. Decipher what specific information they are needing to access on the internet and support them while surfing the net.
5. Keep lines of communication open always. Discuss the difference between using the internet for entertainment versus educational purposes.
6. Educate yourself about the pros and cons of social networking.
7. Educate your child about the prevalence of cyberbullying, sexting and social networking online. Explain the importance of learning to safely navigate the world of social sites and explain the dangerous traps kids can unsuspectingly fall into. Remind them someone's image and or reputation can be destroyed with one devastating email, picture or comment.
8. Immediately step in if you sense your child is in trouble. Remind them that their choices to use the internet inappropriately can have dire consequences. The Kid Pointz reward system which parents can use to help guide their child's online computer use.

### Parenting Tips for Rewarding Kids Using Points and the Internet:

- Set up some family rules that revolve around online use and safety. For example, you can have their online time regulated by behavior rules. If they follow appropriate behavior at home or while using computer they can gain extra time on the computer.



- Behavior rules should reflect your values. Let your child know specifically what you believe is appropriate for them and what is not. Talk about the importance of trust and how to gain trust while using the computer safely. If they clearly know your family's values they will be able to more easily handle difficult situations online when they arise. You can choose to reward your child with points if they act according to your family's values.
- Set up a reward for your child to permit additional time on Facebook or some other social networking site.
- Points can be created and accrued for anything having to do with the computer. For instance, your kids can gain points for using computer

safely, within time allotted, with your permission or even to do homework or research.

We can never be too cautious when it comes to protecting our kids safely online. Our children's knowledge of how to navigate the net lies in our hands. First we need to educate ourselves on the ins and outs of using technology safely. Secondly, we must ensure our children become computer savvy and understand what it means to use the internet. It can either be used as a weapon or as an amazing tool. Finally, It is in our best interest as loving parents to teach them to be smart, responsible and capable when online. Along with open communication, Kid Pointz can help families to reinforce the importance of internet safety.



### Easter Flowers: What To Do After Easter

If you want to preserve Easter memories, there are a few things you can do with the flowers that you receive so that you can enjoy them for years to come.

**Air drying:** The flowers should not be fully opened when you start. Out of the arrangements I've had, baby's breath, daisies, roses, and carnations look well as dried flowers. Secure them at the end of the stems with a rubber band. Create a hook out of a paper clip and poke it through the rubber band. Hang the flower bunches wherever the sun hits your home. It will take several weeks for the flowers to completely dry. When the flowers feel crisp to the touch, they are ready.

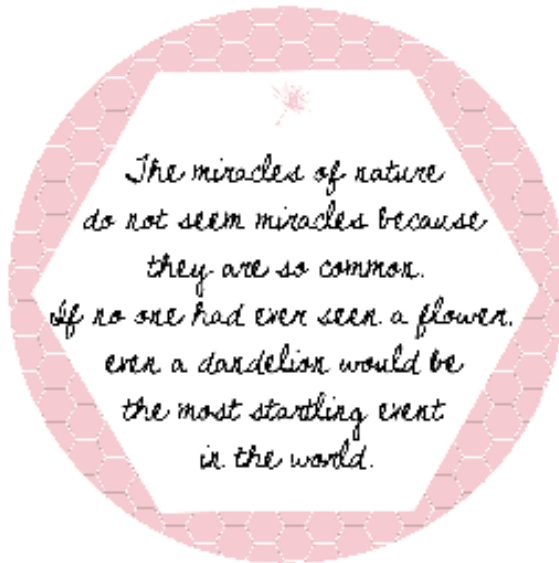
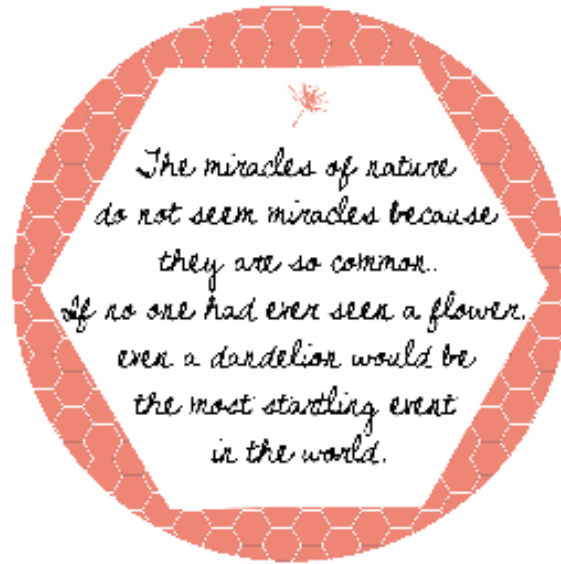
**Pressed flowers:** Pressed flowers can be used as bookmarks or greeting card decorations. Flowers used for pressing should be healthy and not fully opened where it has begun to lose its petals. Make sure to arrange the flower the way that you want it to look after pressing. Use a few books that you won't need. Place the flower between two sheets of paper such as onion skin and then in the book. Once the flower has been pressed, put other books on top to weigh it down. Pressing takes about as long as air drying.

**Replanting flowers:** Read the label information that comes with your plant. Indoor plants should be repotted in a bigger pot before they become root-bound. For outdoor plants, spring is a good time for planting. Use topsoil that is rich in nutrients. Be careful not to upset the root ball. Keep the plant watered constantly as it incorporated itself into the soil. Perennial plants are the only ones that should be re-planted. They will return every year and add color to your garden.

—apples4theteacher.com

# Crafty Kids

Before you mow your lawn,  
pick dandelions and turn  
them into a million smiles.



Cut around each circle, take  
your hole punch & punch holes at  
the top & bottom of each card,  
thread your dandelions through,  
leave them behind for someone  
to find.

## Kind Over Matter Dandelion Cards

<http://kindovermatter.blogspot.com>



# Earth Corner: Natural Egg Dying

## Color Me Organic

by Emily Main and P.W. McRandle

Easter is coming and you've got your free-farmed or organic eggs—so why not dye the shells naturally, too? There are a number of vegetable- and fruit-based dyes that offer a broad range of beautiful colors and are better for you and the environment than artificial colors.

Easter eggs can be dyed using either a hot method or a cold method. If you choose the hot method, hard-boiling the eggs prior to dyeing them isn't necessary; they're "cooked" as they're boiled in the dye. The cold method is safer for younger children who want to be part of the process; in this case, eggs should be hard-boiled first. In either situation, never plan on eating the eggs if they will be un-refrigerated for more than two hours.

Before dyeing your eggs, wash them with soap and water to remove any dirt or oils that might prevent the dye from sticking to the shell.

### Making Natural Dyes

For 4 cups of dye, you'll need:

1 tablespoon of a spice or 4 cups of a chopped fruit or vegetable

4 cups of water

2 tablespoons of white vinegar (to help the dye adhere to the eggs)

Combine the ingredients in a pot, and bring them to a boil, then reduce heat and let the mixture simmer for 15 to 30 minutes. The longer you allow the ingredients to simmer, the darker the color will become. If you choose to dye the eggs using the hot method, you can add raw eggs to the mixture while it's being prepared. If using the cold method, remove the dye from the heat, allow it to cool, then run it through a strainer. Dip your hardboiled eggs

in the dye for at least 15 minutes—longer if you want a darker color. When finished, you can rub the eggs with vegetable oil to give them a soft sheen.

For a little variation, you can have kids decorate the eggs with crayons or wax pencils before boiling and dyeing them. Or, wrap a rubber band around the egg to create contrast, either on a white egg, to prevent coloring, or on a dry, dyed egg, where it will give you a stripe of the original color if it's re-dipped in another.

### Natural Egg Dyes

The following materials will give a range of intensities and surface textures to create a unique Easter egg basket or tree. Measurements where given are approximate; play with additional spices, vegetables and fruits for different results. Canned vegetables will work in place of fresh or frozen, but their colors will be paler. Also, herbal and black teas will give you varying shades of greens, reds and browns.

Pink/red: Pomegranate juice, red onion skins, beets or the juice from pickled beets, pickled red cabbage juice, chopped rhubarb stalks, cranberries or cranberry juice, raspberries, red grape juice

Orange: Yellow onion skins, paprika

Dark orange: Chili powder

Yellow: Orange or lemon peels, carrot tops or shredded carrots, celery seed, ground cumin, ground turmeric

Green: Spinach

Greenish yellow: Yellow Delicious apple peels

Blue: Red cabbage, canned blueberries or blueberry juice, blackberries, purple grape juice

Lavender: Small quantity of purple grape juice, violet blossoms plus two teaspoons of lemon juice, small quantity of red onion skins

Brown/tan: Dill seeds, black walnut shells, strong or instant coffee, tea



**A Spring Garden**

Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus orientalis*), Dutch Crocus (*Crocus vernus*).



**Rabbit**

**Print this page out on cardstock and color bookmarks for your parents, friends, teacher, or yourself!**

