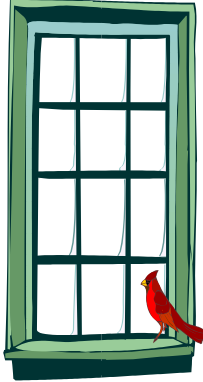


March
2012



MATOAKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bird's Eye View

From Our PTA President, Erin Otis

As usual things are happening in our PTA! We had a very successful Spirit Night at Moe's in February. Thank you to all of the families who supported that event and to Nicole Galindo, our Spirit Night chairman. She has done a great job this year. Our Science Fair Dinner was also a hit. Over 400 people attended. Leanne Conrad, Marbury Abella and Sue Bornschein organized a great event!

At our February meeting we appointed a nominating committee. There are six members of this committee who are charged with nominating the PTA officers for 2012 – 2013. They will advise the board at our March 13th meeting, who the nominees are. We will have a general membership meeting in April to elect the officers for next year.

We have also appointed a bylaws committee. Our bylaws are due to be revised and the revision is in progress. The revisions will be ready for review by

March 26th and will be up for approval at our April general membership meeting.

Coming in March, Theatre IV will be presenting "The Oliver Hill Story"! Oliver Hill, Sr. was a trial lawyer in Richmond Virginia who worked tirelessly against racial discrimination and helped end the doctrine of "separate but equal." Oliver Hill worked all his life "to challenge the conscience of our Commonwealth and our country" and to leave a better world. The entire student body will get to enjoy this play on March 16th!

Successful fundraisers like the Moe's Spirit Night make programs like the Science Fair Dinner and the Theatre IV production possible. Your support is greatly appreciated by our PTA and Matoaka staff.

Warmly,
Erin Otis,
PTA President

Calendar of Events

March

- 13 – PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 16 – Cultural Arts program, Theatre IV – Olive Hill Story
- 22 – Deadline for Bird's Eye View Newsletter

April

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

The 5th annual Matoaka Walk-a-Thon

SAVE THE DATE!

The 5th annual Matoaka Walk-a-Thon is right around the corner, so save **April 20** to come cheer on your little walker!

For those new to our community, the Walk-a-Thon is our largest fundraiser, and helps support all of the programs and activities that we bring to the school. Our students collect pledges from friends and family that support them walking 20-30 minutes on April 20 during the school day. Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000 and increase the overall participation of students and families. This year's event will be themed "The Cardinal of Oz" and will prove to be a fun day for all!

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS

Feb. 7, 2012

Observances in February

Ladies and gentlemen, at its last meeting, the Board approved resolutions drawing attention to several important initiatives. Since we are now in February, the month these are all being observed, I'd like to briefly revisit them and let you know how our Division specifically is honoring them.

Every year in February, **Black History Month** is observed to focus on the contributions and accomplishments of African Americans going back to Colonial days and the founding of America. As one example, Blayton Elementary School yesterday invited Dr. Barbara Blayton Richardson, daughter of school namesake Dr. J. Blaine Blayton, to visit and talk about her father's legacy in Williamsburg. She was joined by Colonial Williamsburg storyteller Sylvia Tabb Lee and Dmitri Clawson who taught the students about life for African Americans in Colonial Virginia and also about African storytelling and drumming.

February also is **Career and Technical Education Month**, which focuses on what we do to provide students with a career pathway for postsecondary education and workplace readiness. This month, our students are being made aware of the 2012 Youth Career Expo, to be held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center on March 6. This

year's presenting sponsor is Newport News Shipbuilding, which will feature advanced interactive technology and ways for parents to be involved more than ever this year.

To honor **National School Counseling Week, February 6 through 10**, the Hampton Roads School Counselor Leadership Team announced that three WJCC school counselors were named "Outstanding Professional School Counselor" for our division in 2012: Jennifer Smith of Matoaka Elementary School; Mary Jo Bracken of Toano Middle School, and Charna Moss-Gregory of Warhill High School. These three people are excellent representatives of a team of counselors that are an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school.

Finally, the Virginia School Boards Association has sent along its certificates acknowledging this month as School Board Appreciation Month, which I'd like to give to you now on behalf of the VSBA.



Coming to Matoaka in March.....



Set the Stage for Learning™
Richmond, VA

National Caliber Theatre in Your School from
Virginia's Largest Nonprofit Professional
Touring Theatre for Young Audiences

The Oliver Hill Story By Bruce Craig Miller

Oliver Hill, Sr., a fearless civil rights lawyer in Richmond, Virginia worked tirelessly against racial discrimination and to end the doctrine of "separate but equal." Along with his friend and colleague, Thurgood Marshall, Hill brought one of the five suits decided by the U. S. Supreme Court under *Brown vs. Board of Education*. Although his life and his family were threatened, he continued to work for civil rights throughout the period known as "Massive Resistance." Oliver Hill dedicated his life "to challenge the conscience of our Commonwealth and our country" and to leave a better world.

**We are behind on the
Farm Fresh receipts....
so let's keep turning them in!!!**

**Square One Art is coming in
MARCH! Look for the order
forms and free stickers in your
child's backpack!!**

**For those parents new to
Matoaka, this is an annual
fundraiser using your child's
artwork to create magnets,
t-shirts, mugs, mouse pads,
calendar to support
Matoaka's Art program.**

March's Character Trait of the Month:

Perseverance

Perseverance means working hard and
not giving up.

I show perseverance when I
stick with something until it is finished.

I show perseverance when I do not give up.



Box Top News

Congratulations to the top classes from
the January collection:

1st Mrs. Ferrara's class - 1172 - Trophy Winners!
2nd Ms. Eaton's class - 805
3rd Mrs. Moser's class - 516
Total from all - 9414

Go to the PTA website, www.matoaka-pta.org under the Box Top and Grocery Program heading to find all the class results from the October and January collections.

Keep collecting-our next trophy deadline is March 20. The top 3 classes for the entire year will have a *water party*, including water balloons!

Reminders: Put them in a baggie (preferred method) or use a collection sheet. Make sure to mark your submission with your teacher's name.

MATOAKA NEEDS YOU!

The PTA nominations committee is looking for parents to fill next year's PTA positions of President, Vice President of Programs, and Vice President of Fundraising. We are always so fortunate to have many parents willing to help with our various committees, but without these key 3 positions filled, it is impossible for us to get the work of the PTA done. We need you! Our past 2 PTA presidents have come into their positions without any prior experience in Matoaka's PTA and have done a fantastic job, so prior experience in the PTA is not a requirement. Everyone can be of value, and it really just takes a willingness to help. Our PTA is structured so that each committee head manages their own events, so these 3 positions are one of guidance, coordination, and support. It's a great way to get to know the on-goings of Matoaka, the principal, the teachers, and give back to the school that gives our kids so much.

Interested individuals (or those who want more information to determine if they are interested!) can contact Christian Dunn at 903-4130 or DunnCLEigh@yahoo.com

New Kent Extension Office
P.O. Box 205 / 11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1
New Kent, VA 23124
804/966-9645 / Fax: 804/966-5013
<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/newkent>

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Raised Bed Gardening Clinic

Saturday, March 3, 2012
10:00 am – Noon



FREE!!



Location:
New Kent Extension Office
11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1
New Kent, VA

Master Gardeners and guest speaker, Dan Nortman, York County Horticulture Extension Agent, will talk about the advantages of raised bed gardening with vegetables, what it takes to have a successful vegetable garden, how to create a garden design, good soil composition, ways to add organic matter, Good Bugs & Bad Bugs, and companion planting.

And a visit to the New Kent Master Gardeners' demonstration garden, on site at the Extension Office.

To reserve your spot by March 1st, and for more information contact:
New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension (804) 966-9645,
email millsm@vt.edu or visit <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/newkent>

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cynthia Rowles, New Kent - Virginia Cooperative Extension at (804-966-9645/TDD*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

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Pruning Clinic



Saturday, March 17, 2012
10:00 am – Noon

FREE!!

Location:
New Kent Extension Office
11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1
New Kent, VA

Master Gardeners will teach proper pruning techniques. Hands-on pruning demonstrations will cover landscape trees and shrubs... *plus* ...tools, sharpening & safety, and educational publications.

Bring your own pruning tools.

To reserve your spot register by March 15th, and for more information contact:
New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension (804) 966-9645,
email millsm@vt.edu or visit <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/newkent>

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cynthia Rowles, New Kent - Virginia Cooperative Extension at (804-966-9645/TDD*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

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Family Fun Ideas

Listed below are several simple ideas that are fun yet inexpensive.

- Take a bike ride, remembering bicycle safety.
- Play catch or Frisbee. Even if you don't have a Frisbee, a round plastic lid make a fun substitute.
- Go to the airport.
- Plant a flower and/or vegetable garden.
- Take a trip on a city bus.
- Invite a family for popcorn.
- Walk, jog, or run as a family
- Have a scavenger hunt either inside or outside.
- Have a barbecue or picnic at a park. Or have an indoor picnic, complete with blankets, paper plates, cups, etc.
- Visit the library and read a book together as a family.
- Work on a word puzzle together.
- Wash the car together.
- Make indoor tents with blankets draped over tables and/or chairs.
- Sing songs. If you have a musical instrument, play along.

10 Ways To Help Your Child Deal With Peer Pressure

Peer influence begins when children are young—and increases as they grow older. It is natural and healthy for children to rely more on friends as they mature. Sometimes peer pressure can be harmless. But it can also cause kids to do poorly in school, experiment with drugs or alcohol, or become sexually active. How Can You Help Your Child Deal With Peer Pressure?

1.Help your child develop self-confidence. Students who feel good about themselves are less likely to give in to pressure from others. Ask your child for his opinion often. “What do you think we should do tomorrow?” “I need to decide who to vote for in the election next week. Help me look over these articles and figure out who I should support.” When parents show children that they value their opinions, children’s self-confidence grows. Help your child see that she is capable of making good judgments for herself. She will then be less likely to be blindly swayed by peer pressure.

2.Encourage your child to take part in positive activities. Activities like music, athletics, Scouts or other youth groups can boost your child’s self-esteem. Your child will be surrounded by peers who share these positive interests. After-school activities can also occupy the time your child might otherwise spend in negative pursuits.

3.Listen to your child. Our goal is for our children to make wise decisions because they want to do the right thing. That means parents have to help children develop responsible attitudes about important issues. The best way is to spend time talking with children about important issues. If you watch a television program that deals with peer pressure, talk about it later with your child. You might ask, “What would you have done in that situation?” Your willingness to listen—and not just lecture—will show your child that you respect his opinions.

4.Encourage your child to suggest other things to do. If a friend is offering alcohol or drugs, it’s tough

to say no. Instead, your child can make other suggestions. “Let’s go see a movie.” “Why don’t we ride our bikes to the park.”

5.Get to know your child’s friends. Turn your house into the after-school or weekend hangout. For the price of some pizzas or popcorn, you can learn who is influencing your child.

6.Teach your child to foresee situations that may lead to trouble. An invitation to a place that will have no adult supervision, or hanging around students who use drugs can lead to “sticky” situations. Phrases like “We won’t get into any trouble” or “Everybody else is doing it” should be a tip-off that this may be a situation to avoid.

7.Develop backup plans when your child is in a situation she can’t handle. Create a family code that means “Come and get me right away.” In one family, the code is, “How is Aunt Beth feeling?” When these parents hear this code, they know to pick their daughter up immediately—no questions asked.

8.Teach your child how to say “no.” Sometimes, the shortest response is the easiest. Help your child role play a situation in which he says, “No, thanks” pleasantly—but firmly. Or, help your child think of, and rehearse, other ways to say “no.” “I’m doing something else that night.” “The coach says drugs will really hurt my game.” And, of course, “My parents would kill me.”

9.Turn peer pressure into positive pressure. Encourage your child to join groups of students who are promoting positive behaviors.

10.Talk with other parents at every opportunity. You’ll learn that everybody isn’t allowed to stay out all night. You’ll also find out that everybody else does have to do chores around the house. When your child knows what is really expected of other children, they can better handle the sometimes exaggerated claims of their peers.

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Crafty Kids

SPRING FLOWERS

Use 3 **coffee filters** for each flower. Take one at a time and decorate with **markers**. When you're done, fold the filter in half, then in fourths and dip the tip slightly in **water**.

The water will seep through the whole filter creating amazing results. Wring out the excess water in a **bowl**. If you want to experiment, lay the colored filter on top of a plain filter and roll both of them together.



Let the filters dry, about a 1/2 hour. Gather all the filters, taking 3 at a time in your hand. Fold them in half, then in fourths, then eighths until it resembles a tortilla. Snip all of the corners and bend a **pipe cleaner** at the halfway point, slipping a **pony bead** through it to hold the pipe cleaner in place. Thread the double pipe cleaner through all 3 holes of the coffee filters. When the pipe cleaner goes through, twist once... then make a loop to make a leaf.

—<http://familycrafts.about.com>



Bird's Eye View

RAINY DAY PICTURES

Draw on card stock with washable markers, then place the papers outdoors in the rain until the colors have run.

Bring the paintings back inside and put them on a flat surface to dry.










—<http://familyfun.go.com>

Earth Corner: Birds Everywhere!

Bird bingo



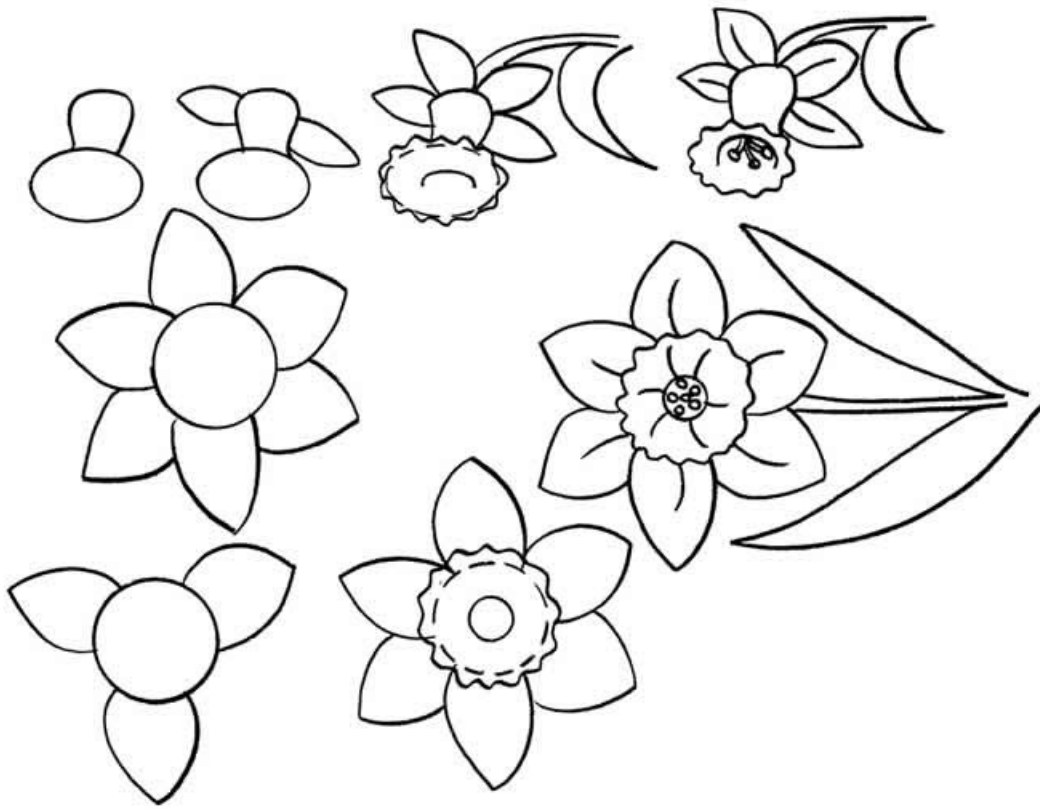
Who's the first to get a line? Who's the first to get the full house? :O)

 <input type="checkbox"/> swooping	 <input type="checkbox"/> flapping	 <input type="checkbox"/> gliding
 <input type="checkbox"/> perching	 <input type="checkbox"/> pecking	 <input type="checkbox"/> drinking
 <input type="checkbox"/> hopping	 <input type="checkbox"/> swimming	 <input type="checkbox"/> sunbathing :O)





This garden has grown some surprises. Find the hidden objects: a glove, a lit candle, an ax, a slice of pepperoni pizza, a match stick, a squirrel, an envelope, a mushroom, a needle and a book.



The **daffodil** blooms when spring is on the way. Daffodils usually are solid white, cream, or yellow, but they can be seen with a bright yellow "trumpet" and white petals.