

April
2013



MATOAKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bird's Eye View

Dear Matoaka Families,

Spring Break is fast approaching. April is shaping up to be a fun and busy month. The media Center introduced The Playaways and they have been flying off the shelf. The kids have really been enthusiastic about our new addition to the media center.

Fine Arts Night is Thursday, April 18th. The PTA will be having a brief meeting at 6:00pm to vote on our new Executive Board for 2013-2014. We are thrilled to have a full slate of officers to vote on, and think it is a great kick off to next year. There are still opportunities to get involved for the upcoming year. Please contact Christian Dunn at dunnleigh@yahoo.com if you are interested.

The Cardinal Carnival is Saturday, April 20th. We are super excited, and working hard to make it a fun

and successful event. There will be games, food, bouncy houses, a petting farm and more. Also, shirts and tickets for the carnival are on sale please see the front office for details. If you are interested in helping out in any way, we are always in need of volunteers. Please Contact Leanne Conrad at elconrads@aol.com or Sue Bornschein at skysharkJB@aol.com.

Once again we thank you for your continued support. The PTA could not do what it does without our wonderful staff and families at Matoaka. Have a wonderful Spring Break and we will see you when you get back.

Thanks,

Anna Hughes
PTA President

Calendar of Events

April		
April 1-5	M-F	SPRING BREAK—NO SCHOOL
April 18	Th	PTA Meeting, 6:00 Fine Arts Night, 6:00—8:00 p.m.
April 20	Saturday	Cardinal Carnival, 3-6 p.m.
April 24	W	Cultural Arts Performance: K-2 will be seeing Theatre IV present Ben Franklin and his kite

Cardinal Carnival!



The Cardinal Carnival is on its way! April 20th, 3-6 pm.

The carnival will include games, inflatables, crafts, cake & book walks, a silent auction, karaoke, helicopter, petting zoo, fire trucks, police cars and more!

New this year will be the "Pitch Burst"! A chance for you to soak your favorite principal—and Mr. Hurley will be a special guest in the pitch burst! Also new this year will be "Pit Stop". The Cardinal Café will be open again this year and will include some new sweet surprises. Presale tickets will go on sale in April at a reduced price and will also be available to purchase on the day of the carnival.

Cardinal Carnival t-shirts are now available for order and will be delivered the week before the carnival. Watch for this flier coming home in backpacks. The PTA will also be awarding unlimited game/ride passes to one student per grade level. This will be organized by the School Administration. Winning students will be announced closer to the carnival date.

As in previous years, families are asked to donate various items to support the Cardinal Carnival. Items such as water, silent auction donations, baked goods & cakes, trinkets & prizes and books.

Watch your child's backpack, the PTA newsletter & website for more information and volunteer opportunities. Or, contact Erin Otis at otisfam@verizon.net.

All money raised at the carnival will be used by the PTA to support our fine learning environment at Matoaka!

Volunteers Needed

Matoaka Parents,

We have many volunteer slots that are still open during the carnival. Please consider helping out! We are still looking for help in all areas, including games, crafts, food, silent auction and ticket sales. Volunteer shifts are 2:30 - 4:30 or 4:30 - 6 pm. Please turn your volunteer form in if you can help or contact Leanne Conrad at elconrads@aol.com.

**Don't miss out!
Order a Cardinal Carnival t-shirt
today!!**



Order forms can be found in the school office or on the PTA website & will be taken until Monday, April 22nd. T-shirts will be delivered after the Carnival.



Our February Box Top collection results are in! Congratulations to the trophy winner, Mr. Spence's class with 1186 Box Tops! Mrs. Miller's class was in 2nd place with 875 Box Tops and Mrs. Madison's class took 3rd place with 850 Box Tops. **Our final collection for the year is on May 15th.** The top classes for the entire year will win a class water party. We are on track to beat our record from last year, so keep on clipping!

Matoaka's School Garden



In March the five kindergarten classes came out to the garden and planted pea seeds. They will be harvesting and tasting their peas in May.

Mr. Spence and Mrs. Robertson's 5th grade classes are studying plants as part of their science curriculum. They started vegetable seeds in their classes and will be transplanting the vegetable plants out to the garden in April. They are growing lettuce, kale, mustard greens, cucumber and watermelon.

The Nature Club harvested bird house gourds from the garden in November. The gourds cured through the winter which allowed them to hollow out on the inside. The gourds were cleaned out and holes were drilled in to each one. In March the Nature Club painted the outside of the gourds. They are now ready to become homes for birds!

If you are interested in helping with school garden projects, please contact Leanne Conrad at elconrads@aol.com.

Healthy Lifestyles Healthy Lifestyles

Healthy Lifestyles is looking for HEALTHY recipe submissions for their Online Recipe Guide <http://www.matoaka-pta.org/recipe> -

Creative and healthy entries will be selected for a prize at the end of the year. You can submit your recipe online <http://www.matoaka-pta.org/recipe-submit/> or send email to tfitz@hotmail.com - Feel free to include pictures if you would like them to appear on the website.

SHIP will be offering Healthy Lifestyle Program Training on April 15th at 7pm to anyone interested in being involved with the program next year. If you are interested in attending the training and being involved with Healthy Lifestyles at Matoaka for the 2012-2014 school year, please contact Tryna Fitzpatrick tfitz@hotmail.com for more information.



Yearbooks orders will be accepted through April. The cost is \$25/book, payable by cash or check to Matoaka PTA. Order forms are available in the office, or send money in an envelope with your child's name and teacher addressed to Matoaka PTA – YEARBOOK.

Give Children Advice So They Can Solve Their Own Problems

It's hard to take a "hands off" attitude when kids are making less-than-perfect decisions.

But that's exactly what parents need to do to foster children's independence, say experts.

Children's problems should be just that—problems they solve. If parents jump in and solve kids' problems, kids can't learn from mistakes. Plus they feel they're not capable. The next time your child must make a decision:

- * Let her go through the steps of problem solving.
- * Encourage her to think aloud. "What are some possible solutions?" "What are the pros and cons of each?"
- * Listen. Provide guidance if needed.
- * Accept her solutions/actions.
- * Let her handle the consequences of her actions.

In this way, your child won't be alone with her concerns. But she will feel that she owns her problems and solutions.

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Family Fun Ideas

Plan activities for Spring Break

Go on a Treasure Hunt: Geocaching and letterboxing are both free activities that the whole family can enjoy. Kids love the treasure hunting aspect of these activities and it is a great way to enjoy the great outdoors.

Have a Pajama Party: Stay in your pajamas all day, snuggle on the couch, and watch movies together.

Have a Cookie Decorating Party: Whip up your favorite sugar cookie recipe. Let them cool, then ice and decorate them. After you have each sampled a few, package the rest to deliver to your family, neighbors, and friends.

Have a Craft Party: Spend the day making fun spring-themed crafts. A quick search on Pinterest can turn up tons of ideas!



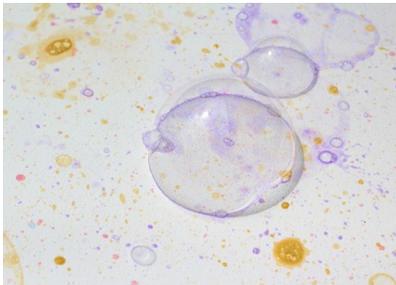
Crafty Kids

FOSSIL RUBBINGS

Watercolors + Bubbles + Paper =



ART!!



There are so many simple shapes that make great fossil rubbings. Look in some books to find some skeletons to use as an inspiration or just make up some crazy footprints. (You can use any animal you'd like—not just dinosaurs.)



Roughly sketch a skeleton and some foot prints, then dribble some white glue or acrylic paint over the sketch lines.

Leave it to dry – make sure it is completely dry and then place another piece of paper over the bumpy print base and use crayons to color back and forth – making a crayon fossil rubbing of the skeleton picture.

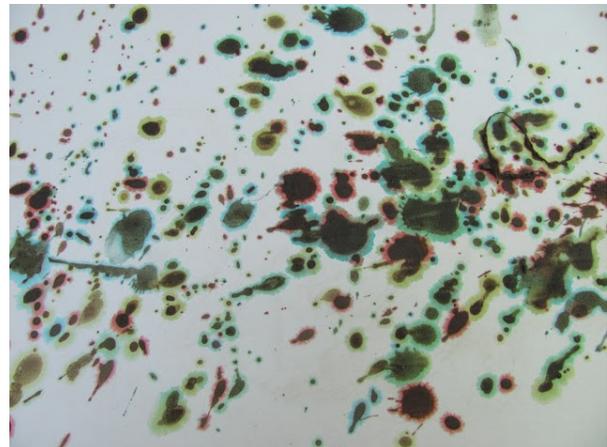


—www.papercraftsforchildren.com

I grew up in Maine and we didn't have Spring, so much as we had "Mud Season", and while the mud may not be as prolific here as it is in the Northeast, you can still have a little fun with it: MUDPAINT! Mix mud, water, and food coloring in a cup. (This is not an exact science, so just do it by trial and error.) Then, paint!



Bird's Eye View



Earth Corner: Recycled Play!

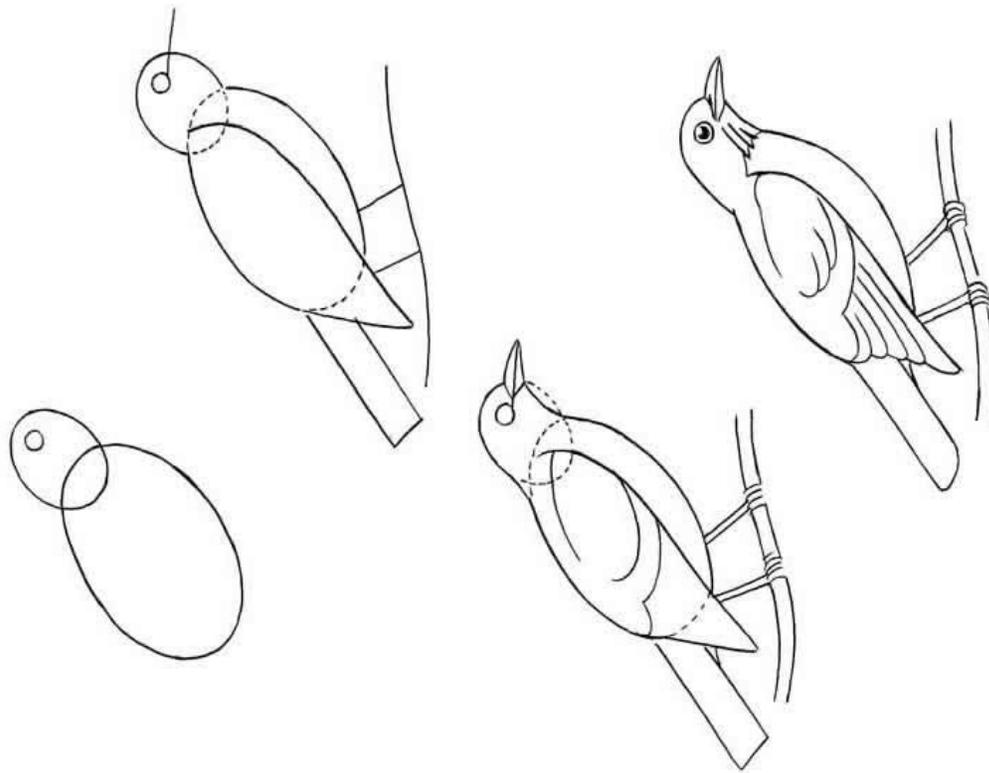
How many of you have tiny bits and pieces of chalk leftover from last Spring and Summer, sitting in a bucket in the garage, abandoned and definitely unappealing to your children? Don't throw them away—turn them into chalk paint! Simply grate each color into a separate bowl/glass jar, mix some water in until you have a runny paste and paint away! Use paper, a driveway, the back patio—whatever works. If you are adventurous, make some mud paintings (previous page) AND chalk paintings on the same paper!



**Don't throw away those books, toys, cd's, dvd's, puzzles and/or games!
Have a "Play Swap" with people in your neighborhood—
exchange some books you don't read anymore
for a game your friend doesn't play anymore.
No one has to spend money and everyone gets something new and fun to do.**



If you have old books or magazines laying around, you just need scissors, glue and popsicle sticks to make a cast of characters and put on a play; tell the story they came from, tell a completely new story, use them to sing a song—use your imagination and you can't go wrong.



1 Robin

DRAW SPRING THINGS!



Rabbit