



# Bird's Eye View

## December 2013

From our PTA President, Michelle Alexander

Dear Matoaka Families,

As we head into the holiday season, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for your continued support of the PTA and our school. November was another busy month for the PTA and, once again, we would not have been able to accomplish so much without the support of our members. Speaking of membership – we have surpassed our goal of 450 and are now at 461 members! Thank you to all of our families who joined during our November membership contest! If you have not yet joined, it is not too late – we will continue to accept membership forms.

At the November General Membership meeting, we passed a motion to increase the school gift fund, in our budget, by \$4000, using funds raised from the Walk-a-thon. I am excited to report that these funds will be used for grade level projects this school year. We are still working with Principal Jacobs and the grade level teams on the details of these projects, but will have more to report at the January meeting, so stay tuned!

Looking ahead to the New Year, please mark your calendars for some upcoming PTA events. The first is

another General Membership Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30PM. For this meeting, we will welcome Jennifer Smith, the Matoaka School Counselor. She will present a program on Bullying and Building Resistance. We hope you can join us to discuss this important topic. Childcare will be provided. Please look for more information coming home in your child's folder once we return from the holiday break.

Also in January, we have another restaurant spirit night, Z Pizza, on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Finally, we will have our second Family Fun Night on January 18<sup>th</sup> – we hope you will join us for the W&M vs. JMU Basketball Game that evening. More information on tickets will be coming soon!

As always, to keep up to date on all of our PTA happenings, you can read the full newsletter on our website: [matoaka-pta.org](http://matoaka-pta.org).

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Michelle Alexander  
PTA President

- |           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 9-13      | Book Fair, Media Center         |
| 10        | Evening Book Fair, Media Center |
| 18        | Winter Concert, 10-11 a.m.      |
| 20        | PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.             |
| 23        | Winter Break begins             |
| January 2 | School Re-opens                 |

## December Calendar of Events



## PTA Membership Contest

The November membership contest was a huge success...We now have over 450 members – and have marched right past our goal! Thank you, members!!

Kindergarten won the contest for most memberships by grade. They will have a Zoo Pro assembly in the near future! Winners of the individual class awards (class with most memberships in each grade level) will be able to purchase \$40 worth of supplies for their classroom. The winners are:

- K - Mrs. Campbell
- 1 - Mrs. Walls and Poulter (2-way tie)
- 2 - Mrs. Harmon, Hughson, Byrd- Prittchet (3 way tie)
- 3 - Mrs. Heath
- 4 - Mrs. Sydow
- 5 - Mrs. Freeland



**Family Fun Night**

THE NEXT FAMILY FUN NIGHT WILL BE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2014 AT 4:00 PM, AT THE WILLIAM AND MARY BASKETBALL GAME AGAINST JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY.

STUDENTS WEARING MATOAKA APPAREL WILL GET FREE ADMISSION. ADULT TICKETS WILL BE \$5 AND CHILDREN NOT IN MATOAKA GEAR WILL BE \$3.

DETAILS ON ORDERING TICKETS WILL COME SOON!

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry to this year's PTA Reflections Program - "Believe, Dream, Inspire!" Creative Matoaka students from Kindergarten through Grade 5 submitted an impressive 78 entries in eight categories. Our wonderful judges reviewed all the submissions and chose seven entries to represent Matoaka at the next level in their respective arts and age categories:

- Reagan Carino (Grade 3) - Dance Choreography, Intermediate
- Krista Johnson (Grade 4) - Film Production, Intermediate
- Holly Brundage (Grade 1) - Literature, Primary
- Soren Su (Grade 5) - Literature, Intermediate
- Cannon Jean (Grade 4) - Photography, Intermediate
- Hailey Mahler (Grade 1) - Visual Arts, Primary
- Alex Parker (Grade 4) - Visual Arts, Intermediate



Congratulations to all our participants on their creativity and hard work and we wish the best of luck to our Matoaka Representatives at the next level of judging for the 2013-14 National PTA Reflections Program!



Third grade classes planted tulips in the garden last month as part of the Journey North international program. The students are taking part in a citizen scientist study to collect data on the emergence and bloom time of the tulips. They will be keeping track of their class data as well as other classes across the northern hemisphere through their computer resources class with their teacher Mrs. McFarland.

Kindergarten classes were out in the garden in November as well. They harvested the lettuce and radishes that they planted in September. Each student had the opportunity to taste their harvested vegetables and most gave them big thumbs up!

If you are interested in helping with garden projects this year, please contact Leanne Conrad at [elconrads@aol.com](mailto:elconrads@aol.com).

**The Yearbook Cover Contest**  
**deadline has been extended to**  
**December 6, 2013!**

This contest is open to ALL GRADES K-5TH!

**RULES:** Artwork must be on a 8 1/2 X 11, 24# white paper, portrait direction.

**WHAT TO INCLUDE:** "Matoaka Elementary, 2013-2014" must be included in the design. Design, colors and artwork is up to you but it should be hand drawn only. No computer clip art, please.

**PRIZES:** The winning 5th grade cover contest winner gets a **FREE YEARBOOK** with their design printed on the cover! The 5th grade runner up will get their artwork printed on the back cover of the yearbook. K-4th winners will get their design printed on the inside cover.

Happy drawing!

**Box Tops Winners**

**Congratulations to the Box Top Trophy Winner: Mrs. Freeland**

The top class collection winners were:

Mrs. Broe--538 (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)

Mrs. Freeland--701 (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)

Mrs. LaBua--320 (Record Breaking)

We collected 8,600 Box Top, which is \$860!! Great Job Cardinals! Please keep collecting for the next contest ending February 10<sup>th</sup>.

# Matoaka Honors Our Veterans



The annual Veterans Day performance and reception has become a time-honored tradition here at Matoaka. Our guests thoroughly enjoyed the performance of Patriotic songs by our third graders. Accompanying the music was a slide show of military member photos submitted by our proud military families. After the performance, over 300 guests and their student hosts were invited to the Cardinal Café for a dessert reception hosted by the PTA. Guests enjoyed delicious desserts donated by

Matoaka families and fruit, cheese & crackers provided by the PTA's Healthy Lifestyle Committee. The event was our way of thanking our Active Duty Military and Veterans for their service to our great country – Cardinal style!



Thank you to all who donated candy for The Treats for the Troops Candy Drive. We collected 255 pounds of candy and dentist Dr. Sebastiana Springman will be shipping the candy to our troops. Thank you for your support!

The Matoaka Student Directory has been published and sent home. If necessary, an addendum will be published in late January, 2014.

If you have any changes to your information, or would like to be added to the Directory, please either contact Leanne Meyer at [LeanneLMeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:LeanneLMeyer@yahoo.com) or send the information via student backpack to PTA Directory no later than January 17, 2014.

While sharing is a skill best taught young, it's never too late. For school-aged children, it's a perfect time to start teaching the benefits of sharing with their community as well. As any parent who's stood in a checkout line with their child between racks of candy, trinkets, and gadgets knows, children have a powerful sense of wanting and ownership. By the time they start elementary school, most children understand the basics of ownership and the niceties of sharing in social situations. Still, there are ways parents can help instill or cultivate a child's sense of sharing.

- Talk to their teacher. Since so much of their time is spent in school, getting the teacher's take on your child's sharing skills can be a good starting point. What does the teacher observe and what guidance might they offer?
- Encourage participation in team sports and activities that require teamwork and cooperation.
- Practice "catching" your children sharing and praise them for it.
- Let children resolve their own conflicts when possible. Fight the rush to jump in and be a referee. They learn to share and work together better if they're allowed to work things out themselves.
- Reinforce the basic rules of sharing. If you want something that belongs to someone else, you ask. When someone asks to use your things, it's impolite to just say no, but you don't have to say yes. Teach your child to respond by giving a reason and suggesting alternatives.
- Share responsibilities around the house. Creating a chore chart is a great way to do this.



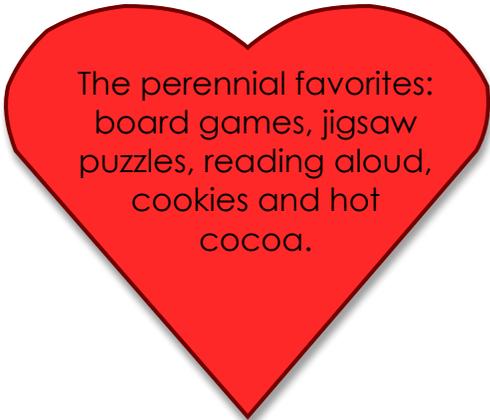
School-aged children are also ready to learn sharing in the broader context of sharing their time, talent, and belongings to those less fortunate.

- Make sharing a family project. Set up a system for your children to gather toys and clothes they have outgrown and periodically donate them to charity.
- Have the children save and buy toys or other items for underprivileged children and their families.
  - Look for causes that are having bake sales, yard sales, or other activities in which children can get involved.
  - Research opportunities for volunteering or sharing with an area children's hospital or other organization that helps children with medical or other needs.



Getting involved will not only help your child better appreciate what they have, but teach the value of helping those in need.

# Winter Family Time



Cabin Fever?  
--innerchildfun.com

Indoor Ice Skating: Make boots for each child with sheets of wax paper and use rubber bands around the ankles. Play waltz music on the stereo, and let your child “skate” on the carpet. Careful, it is slippery, but also a lot of fun!

Bake Bread: A great way to kill time and get the kids involved in the kitchen. Having the oven on helps heat up the house too!

Build a Fort: Blankets, chairs, and couch cushions can all be use to build a great indoor fort.

Winter Movie Marathon: Snuggle up with blankets, popcorn and three or four of your favorite movies—perhaps a series?



Enjoy movies \* go skiing or snowboarding \* go bowling \* hang out at the library \*  
Check out a museum \* go ice skating \* root for your favorite team at a live event \*