

# BIRD'S EYE VIEW

## A Word From Our President, Michelle Alexander

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. I want to extend a special thanks to Chris Long, Tryna and Dan Fitzpatrick, and Katherine Klarenbach, along with all of our wonderful parent volunteers who made our annual Healthy Lifestyles Week a success. Also, a huge thanks to Sue Bornschein, Beth Robles, and Karen Quinlan, along with all of their volunteers, for another amazing Veterans Day reception for our military families! As you can see, 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.

As we close out our November membership drive, I am happy to report that we have 434 members to date, 90% of the way to our goal for the year. Thanks to Fran Metzger and Debbie Arnett for their hard work on our membership drive so far. We will continue to accept membership forms, as we make our way to the goal of 490 members.

At the November General Membership meeting, we passed a motion to increase the school gift fund, in our budget, by \$5000, using funds raised from the Walk-a-thon. As some of you may remember, last year our extra funds were used for grade level projects. I am excited to report that the funds this year will be used to support our centers teachers and our special education classrooms. We are working with Principal Jacobs and the teachers on the details of these projects and will have more to report at the January meeting, so stay tuned!

I know December is a busy month for all, so don't forget about our exciting event coming up NEXT WEEK, on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Polar Express Movie Night will be a fun night for families, so come dressed in your PJs and enjoy this special time with friends!

Looking ahead to the new year, please mark your our next General Membership Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, January 21st, at 6:30PM. For this meeting, we will welcome Jennifer Smith, the Matoaka School Counselor, for our annual 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.

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

Read the Full Newsletter online at [matoaka-pta.org](http://matoaka-pta.org)

## **Join the Birthday Book Club**

Worried your cupcakes are not Pinterest perfect?

Worried your cake pops will slide across your car seat onto the floor?

Not sure about allergy free ingredients?

Do you want to reduce the sugar our kids eat?

Want to leave a lasting gift in your child's honor to Matoaka's School Library?

Then sign your child up for Matoaka's BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB...coming soon!

Beginning in the new year, Healthy Lifestyles, in partnership with the Matoaka Library, will offer a new program as an alternative to birthday sweet treats. Parents will have an opportunity to purchase a book, in honor of your child's birthday, to be donated to the Matoaka Library. The book will feature your child's name on a name plate. Your child will also get a special treat and recognition on his or her special day.

Look for more information coming home in your child's backpack after the holiday break!

**Scholastic Book Fair**

The Matoaka Scholastic Book Fair will be here Monday, Dec. 8th - Friday, Dec. 12th. The fair will be open from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm daily, Monday through Thursday. It will close on Friday at 1:00 p.m. Family Night will be held Tuesday, December 9th from 5:00pm - 7:00 pm.

This year, we will NOT be selling trinkets and toys during the school day. We will sell these items at Family Night and again on Friday morning before the fair closes. A portion of the proceeds from the fair goes towards purchasing books for our school library. Please contact Mrs. Crispino in the library with any questions. Hope to see you there!

**Capture a Memory**

Please help the 2014/2015 yearbook staff fill the yearbook with memories! If you enjoy taking photos\* and would like to take or submit photos from your child's class please contact Lisa Iannuzzelli at [ljiannuzzelli@gmail.com](mailto:ljiannuzzelli@gmail.com). \*No camera phone photos please, unless they are high resolution.

**Your Teacher's Spotlight**

Would you like to get to know your child's teacher a little bit better? The PTA is putting together a Teacher Spotlight to help you! We have asked our Matoaka teachers to fill out a questionnaire that includes information like their birthday, hobbies, favorites, and a classroom wish list.

This Teacher Spotlight is a great way to learn a little more about your child's teacher and can be a great resource. Your child's homeroom parent will be contacting you with access to your teacher's Spotlight questionnaire. Many of the specialty teachers have filled out Spotlight

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

**MAKE UP PICTURES:** Thursday, Dec. 4th. This day is for those students who were absent on fall picture day or wishing a retake of a picture. If you would like to have their picture taken on this day, please send in a note to your child's classroom teacher indicating that fact.

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT** - Matoaka PTA will be sponsoring a Polar Express Movie Night on Friday, Dec. 12th here at Matoaka. Look for more details in the coming days.

- DEC

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Tue

**School Board Regular Meeting @ James City County Government Complex, Building F** -

Dec 2 @ 7:00 pm

CATEGORIES: SCHOOL BOARD

Read more →
- DEC

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Thu

**School Photo Makeup Picture Day** -

Dec 4 all-day

Read more →
- DEC

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Mon

**Scholastic Book Fair @ Matoaka Media Center** -

Dec 8 – Dec 12 all-day

The Book Fair is a great opportunity to do your holiday shopping while supporting our media center!

CATEGORIES: GENERAL

Read more →
- DEC

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Tue

**Scholastic Book Fair Evening Hours** -

Dec 9 @ 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

The Book Fair will be open during the school day as well as for extended evening hours.

Read more →
- DEC

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Wed

**Band, Orchestra, Chorus Winter Concert @ Matoaka Gym** -

Dec 17 @ 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Read more →
- DEC

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Fri

**All School Holiday Sing** -

Dec 19 @ 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Read more →
- DEC

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Mon

**Winter Break** -

Dec 22 – Jan 2 all-day

Schools Closed

CATEGORIES: HOLIDAYS

Read more →
- DEC

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Wed

**Winter Break** -

Dec 24 – Dec 25 all-day

WJCC Offices Closed

CATEGORIES: HOLIDAYS

Read more →
- JAN

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Thu

**Winter Break** -

Jan 1 all-day

WJCC Offices Closed