

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 4

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Bird's Eye View

Matoaka Elementary School PTA Newsletter



A Word from our PTA President, Michelle Alexander

On behalf of the PTA, I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new and returning Matoaka families. I am honored to serve as your PTA President again this year, alongside a wonderful group of leaders on our PTA Board, who have already been working hard on plans for the 2014-2015 school year. We have many exciting programs and events planned!

Matoaka is proud to be a National PTA School of Excellence. As such, the goal of the Matoaka PTA is to work, in cooperation with our school administrators and staff, to create an atmosphere where families are engaged in activities that promote well being & educational success. It is our hope that, together, we can continue to support an environment at Matoaka where all children will thrive!

You can help us reach this goal by supporting the work of the PTA in a variety of different ways. First, you can [become a member of the PTA](#). Your \$6 individual membership OR \$10 family membership dues help sponsor PTA programs, like Family Fun Nights, Cultural Arts assemblies, and the Reflections Program. Second, you can donate your time as a volunteer at a PTA sponsored event and/or serve on a PTA committee. We have many opportunities for volunteers, including our two biggest events, the Walk-a-thon and the Spring Carnival. These events raises money to support various programs, such as the Chesapeake Bay Experience, the Local Produce Initiative, and other school gifts. Finally, you can donate toward the Enrichment Drive, which replaces catalog sales with 100% of the funds going directly back to PTA-supported programs, like the school garden, Matoaka Dads, Field Day, educational internet programs, and other activities.

Continued.....

Speaking of support, thank you to all who attended our two events the first week of school, BooHoo Yahoo Breakfast and our Ice Cream Social/General Membership Meeting. It was wonderful to see everyone, especially all of our NEW Matoaka families. Thanks to our members, we adopted our annual budget and audit at the Ice Cream Social. You can find copies of both of these documents on our website. **We would also like to thank all of our families who came out to Papa Murphy's for last week's Spirit fundraiser. Because of your support, Papa Murphy's is able to donate \$500 to our school!**

October is going to be a busy and exciting month! **To kick it off, on Friday, October 10th, we welcome all of our Matoaka Dads to attend the annual "Morning with Dad" which will be held from 8:30-9:15AM.** Bring your students and join us for a light breakfast and learn about all the opportunities we have for Dads to get involved in our school. New this year – we invite all Dads to accompany their children, after breakfast, to the classroom for 15-20 minutes. This will be a great opportunity for Dads to sign up to participate in our Mystery Reader program for grades K-2, or to be a math/science helper in grades 3-5. We look forward to seeing all of our Matoaka Dads on October 10th!

October 17th is our Walk-A-Thon! This year's theme is "Walk Like an Egyptian" and it is certainly shaping up to be "one for the history books"! Our goal this year is to raise \$15,000 and we need everyone's help to do this. All pledges, big and small, help us reach our goal and every dollar that is raised goes directly back to the Matoaka PTA. This enables us to fund things like computer programs for the school, the school garden, the Chesapeake Experience field trips, and much more!

There are many ways you can stay up-to-date on all PTA programs and activities. In addition to our monthly newsletter, you can keep track of what is happening through the Matoaka PTA website (matoaka-pta.org). Also, don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MatoakaElementary) and follow us on Twitter (@MatoakaPTA).

Once again, welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! Thank you for all you do to support our school!

**Please visit the
Matoaka PTA Website,
to access and read the full
newsletter.**



2014-2015 Reflections Program



Click here for
Rules and
more details.

The World would be a Better Place if..."

Feel like showing off your creative side? The PTA Reflections Program would love to see what you can do!

This year's theme is "The world would be a better place if..."

Show us what it means to you with an original creation submitted by Monday, October 27. With categories in Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography and Visual Arts, if you can create it, you can enter it. There's also a Special Artist Division (*see qualification rules). You can enter as many creations as you like, but make sure it's all yours - group projects aren't eligible - and created specifically for this year's PTA Reflections Program. Look for entry forms in the coming weeks. Send questions to Tricia Royle (mesreflections@gmail.com)

Sport Grey Embroidered Sweatshirts only \$32!



In Youth and Adult S, M, L. Orders taken now through early October.

Please contact Amanda Gada, 757-880-8274 or adgada@cox.net for assistance. [Click here to get your order form today!](#)



Matoaka Elementary PTA

8th Annual Walk-A-Thon

Walk Like an Egyptian

Friday, October 17, 2014

It is time to get ready for the **Matoaka Walk-A-Thon**

and venture into our biggest fundraiser of the year! For those of you who are new to our school, we hold a walk-a-thon fundraiser because it really is the most efficient and fun way to raise money for our school. You don't need to buy anything or go door to door selling anything. You simply collect pledge money that supports your child walking 20-30 minutes on October 17th during the school day.

We want to measure success not only by our monetary goal, but also by the level of participation across the school—**every student can contribute and no pledge is too small!** Here is what you can do to help the students make the walk-a-thon a success:

Please assist your students in contacting friends and family via email, phone, or in person to request pledges. Any person or business can sponsor a pledge. All pledges are a flat rate and do not relate to the laps or time spent walking by each student. Pledges may be collected by cash or check (payable to MES PTA) or online at our website at <http://www.matoaka-pta.org/donate/> where we have established a secure PayPal account which will allow us to collect money and track it to the appropriate student and class. We would like to receive all pledge money no later than October 17th, the day of the Walk-a-Thon.

On October 17th, Matoaka students will "Walk Like An Egyptian" for 20-30 minutes during the school day on a course marked in front of the school to earn the pledges they have collected.

- 9:30 – 10:00 Kindergarten & 1st Grade
- 10:15 – 10:45 4th & 5th Grade
- 11:00 – 11:30 2nd & 3rd Grade

Grand prizes this year are a 32 gb **Ipad Air**, an **Ipod Touch**, and a **Samsung Tablet for Nook**. In recognition of our students' efforts, every student will receive a special token of appreciation and be entered in a chance to win "Principal for the Day" or "Lunch with the A.P.". **New this year:** For every \$20 increment of money brought in you will be entered into a raffle to win prizes valued at around \$100, such as six (6) Great Wolf Lodge indoor water passes, and four (4) GoApe Junior passes. Prizes will also be awarded to the class that brings in the most pledge money, and to the class with the most participation.

Please help make our Matoaka Walk-A-Thon a success. For more information, contact Christine Tirone at 757.90-9385 or ctirone@yahoo.com.



Matoaka Elementary School Garden News

It's been a busy summer in the garden.

Matoaka families signed up to take care of the garden for a week at a time this summer. They did a great job keeping up with weeding and watering.

A big thank you to Matoaka parents Kate and Glen Nichols for installing the new tool shed and Eric Mayes for being our delivery man.

Last spring second graders did an excellent job planting a butterfly garden. September has been a month filled with Swallowtail and Monarch caterpillars in the garden, thanks to their work! This fall we are looking forward to having our kindergarten classes come out to plant cool season vegetables and for third graders to participate in the Journey North Citizen Scientist Program through their computer center time.



How can you help?

Please check out our Facebook page for more information and to find out how you can help:
www.facebook.com/matoakaelementarygarden

Healthy Lifestyles

The PTA sponsored Healthy Lifestyle Program at Matoaka is committed to advocating health and wellness throughout our school. We offer programs and events that promote, educate and encourage good nutrition, physical activity and healthy behavior. We encourage you to get involved! Contact Tryna Fitzpatrick tfitz@hotmail.com

This Month's Featured Recipe: Watermelon "Cupcakes"

Are you celebrating a birthday and need a healthy treat to share with the class? Try these fun, no-bake "cupcake" alternatives, shared with us by a Matoaka student and family!

Ingredients:

- 1 Large Watermelon
- 2 cups of your favorite Greek yogurt (we like lemon or coconut!)
- 1/2 cup Powdered sugar (or less if you are using flavored yogurt)
- Optional for frosting: a splash of vanilla extract or coconut extract or lemon zest (depending on which flavor you want!)
- Sprinkles
- Cupcake liners



Directions:

- Cut watermelon into 2" slices, then use a round cookie cutter (or the top of a drinking glass) to create round slices.
- Make the Greek yogurt frosting: 2 cups of greek yogurt blended with one cup of powdered sugar. Add optional vanilla, lemon or coconut flavor if desired.
- In cupcake liners – Layer 1 slice of watermelon, top with frosting. Repeat. Top with watermelon slice. (You will have three watermelon slices and two layers of frosting).
- Top with frosting and sprinkles.
- Serving size will depend on the size of your watermelon.

Find more healthy snack alternatives, visit the PTA website matoaka-pta.org/recipes. You will find links to our Pinterest board, our Healthy Recipe Guide and much more.

Healthy Snack Initiative

In an effort to limit sugary treats and food allergy problems at school celebrations, our Healthy Snack Initiative was created. Guidelines call on parents, teachers and the PTA to be conscience of our message by offering healthier alternatives to cupcakes and candy whenever possible. Thank you for helping us keep our Matoaka students healthy!

Healthy Lifestyles Week

Healthy Lifestyles Week will be held November 3rd - 7th! [LEARN MORE HERE](#).

Back by popular demand: Applepalooza, Pepperpalooza and much more! Stay tuned.

Matoaka Elementary School



Dear Matoaka Families,

Matoaka earned over \$3200 last school year through Box Tops for Education. The money earned was used to purchase Sol Assemblies for grades 3-5, The Virginia Living Museum Field Trip for 1st Grade, and colored team vest for PE. Your Box Tops really do make a difference!

There will be 3 submission dates this year but you are welcome to turn in Box Tops at any time.

**Submission dates are November 12, February 11 and June 1

**Please make sure you include your Teacher's Name on the Box Tops that your child submits.

**Box Tops Expire!

**Please separate these from Labels for Education & Farm Fresh Receipts

This year there will be prizes awarded for students that submit Box Tops.

**New this year for 5th Graders, for every 50 Box Tops that a 5th Graders submits they will receive an entry into a raffle for a Homsby T-shirt or Sweatshirt. We will raffle off one item after each submission (Nov/Feb/June). It's very important that the 50 Box Tops are not expired, are placed in a ziploc marked with the student and teachers names.

**The class that submits the most Box Tops in K-4 will be awarded a Gogurt Treat. The winner will be named & rewarded after the Nov 12 submission and the February 11 submission. The top winner of all grades will be awarded the Matoaka Box Top Trophy to display in the classroom until the next submission.

**The class that submits the most Box Tops thru June 1 will be awarded a Pizza Party before the end of the school year.

Box Tops can be found on over 250 products. To name a few, Yoplait, Betty Crocker, Green Giant, Nature Valley, General Mills Cereals, Hanes Apparel, Ziploc, Motts, Pillsbury & Hefty. For a complete list of products go to btte.com.

Another way you can support Matoaka: go online to btte.com and register as a Matoaka supporter.

Thanks for your support!

Box Top Coordinators,

Donna Grosfeld
dannagrosfeld@gmail.com

Heather Hansen
WFD231@verizon.net



Matoaka Dad's Club
<http://www.matoaka-ots.org/>
POC: Dan Fitzpatrick
703-775-4689
dcfitz@gmail.com



Morning with
DAD
*Big Hands to Help the Little
Ones*



**DADS AND THEIR MATOAKA STUDENT(S) ARE INVITED
TO JOIN US ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10th, 2014 AT 8:30AM**

EVENT: Morning with Dad: *Big Hands to Help the Little Ones*

PURPOSE: The Matoaka Dad's Club is committed to encouraging male role involvement at our school. This event is a great opportunity for fathers (and father figures) to share ideas, learn more about the Matoaka Dad's Club, and discuss other opportunities to strengthen the Matoaka Elementary community over a light breakfast. Dads can also accompany their student to his/her classroom for a short visit starting at 9:10AM.

LOCATION: Matoaka Elementary Gym/Cafeteria

**IF YOU WILL ATTEND THE "MORNING WITH DAD" EVENT, PLEASE FILL OUT INFO
BELOW AND HAVE YOUR STUDENT(S) RETURN THE FORM TO THEIR TEACHERS
NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 3, 2014.**

Student's Name(s) _____

Teacher's Name(s) _____ Grade(s) _____

Dad's Name _____

Dad's Telephone # (s) Home (____) ____ - ____ and/or Cell (____) ____ - ____

Email Address _____ @ _____

Mark your Calendar:

OCT 10 Fri	Morning With Dad @ Matoaka Elementary Oct 10 @ 8:30 am - 9:30 am	
OCT 17 Fri	Walkathon @ Matoaka Elementary School Oct 17 @ 9:15 am - 10:30 am	
OCT 22 Wed	Early Release Oct 22	
OCT 24 Fri	School Pictures Oct 24	
OCT 27 Mon	Reflections Entry Deadline Oct 27	
OCT 31 Fri	Halloween Parade @ Matoaka Elementary School Bus Loop Oct 31 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	
NOV 1 Sat	Matoaka 5k & Fun Run @ Matoaka Cardinal Way Trail Nov 1 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am	
NOV 3 Mon	Healthy Lifestyles Week Nov 3 @ 9:00 am - Nov 7 @ 4:00 pm	
NOV 4 Tue	Election Day No School Nov 4	



22nd Children's Consignment Sale

Friday, October 3, 2014 - 11am* - 7pm

*Get in at 10:00am with a Jar of Peanut Butter for FISH

Saturday, October 4, 2014 - 8am - Noon

King of Glory Lutheran Church
4897 Longhill Road - Williamsburg

Great selection of new and gently used seasonal children's clothing for expectant parents and growing children (newborn to teen), maternity clothing, costumes, nursery and children's furniture, room accessories, baby equipment, strollers, high chairs, toys, books, videos, puzzles, games, and bikes

Our sale is open to all families to consign, volunteer and shop.

Consigning is a great way to make some money for your family by selling your children's outgrown items. 65% to consignors

The money that is raised goes into gift certificates for families in need in our area to shop our sale and the KOG National Youth Gathering. Items are donated to FISH and Grove Christian Outreach. Books are donated to the Storybook Connection Program.

kogccs@cox.net * 757-784-3524

These materials, and the activity described herein, are not sponsored or endorsed by the Williamsburg-James City County School Board.



Treetop Junior Nights at Height

Zip Lines, Treetop Obstacles, and Halloween Fun

October 3, 10, 17, 24 – 7pm, 7:30pm, 8pm



**Go Ape! Freedom Park
5537 Centerville Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188**

goape.com or 1.800.971.8271

\$25 per person. Booking ahead recommended with code MTEPTA to support* Matooka Elementary!

\$5 of every ticket sold with the code MTEPTA will be donated to the PTA

Costumes are encouraged, as well as an appetite for adventure!
For safety, no masks, paint, loose clothing or capes may be worn while on the course.
Designed for ages 3 to 12; but anyone who is at least 3 ft. 3 in. tall may participate.
Adult supervision is required, and parents are encouraged to enjoy the adventure!

More information at www.goape.com.