



# Bird's Eye View

## March 2014

From our PTA President, Michelle Alexander

Dear Matoaka Families,

Happy March! As we head in to the last part of our school year and look towards Spring and WARMER weather, the PTA has been busy planning several events!

I hope you will all join us on March 11<sup>th</sup> for our Spirit Night at Menchie's Frozen Yogurt. This is a great night to take the family out to one of our great area restaurants, or enjoy dinner at home, and then head on over to Menchie's for dessert! Proceeds from all of our Spirit Nights go towards supporting the work of the PTA and our school.

In addition, the teachers and staff at Matoaka have been hard at work planning the annual Math, Science, Technology and Wellness Fair, which will take place on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Several members of our Matoaka Dads club have been helping with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade science fair projects. I hope you will come on out to the school that night to see the results of our students' hard work!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for one of the biggest events of our year – the annual Cardinal Carnival – which will be held on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 2-5PM. Our carnival committee has been hard at work, planning this exciting event. This year will feature new games and inflatable rides, as well as new food options and other fun surprises. This is a great family event, so bring the whole crew and come have some fun with us! We look forward to seeing you there!

Finally, believe it or not, we are already making plans for the 2014-2015 school year. As you know, the PTA plans and supports numerous projects and programs at Matoaka throughout the year. We would not be able to accomplish these things without the support of a strong board, which is made up of about 30 parents! Currently, we are working on filling those positions for the upcoming year and would love to hear from our members who may be interested in joining our efforts! Have you been thinking about how to get involved in the PTA? Do you know where to start? Now is a great time to reach out and let us know you are interested! We have so many ways you can help - from small projects and committee work, to taking a leadership role on our board. To learn more about how you can get involved, please join us for our next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7PM, in the Media Center. I look forward to seeing you there!

If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would still like to learn more about how to get involved, please contact me, via email, [chele.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:chele.alexander@gmail.com).

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). Thank you for your continued support of our school!

Sincerely,  
Michelle Alexander  
PTA President

## March Calendar of Events

- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| 11 | Matoaka Spirit Night, 5 - 9 p.m. Menchie's Frozen Yogurt | 19 | PTA Board meeting, 7 p.m.                     |
| 12 | Half Day cancelled to make up for Snow Days              | 20 | Spring Picture Day                            |
| 13 | Science, Math, Technology & Fitness Night, 5:30-7 p.m.   | 22 | 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra Solo Festival |
|    |  | 25 | Theater IV Performance, 2 – 3 p.m.            |
|    |  | 29 | Cardinal Carnival, 2 – 5 p.m.                 |



# Matoaka Cardinal Carnival 2014

Many Changes in Store to Add to the Fun!

Mark your calendars for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Cardinal Carnival to be held on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 pm. The carnival will once again include plenty games, crafts, inflatables, cake & book walks, a petting zoo, the MedEvac helicopter, police cars and more! **New** this year are the football throw & bucket ball toss games, the Gem Mining Truck where you can pan for precious gems, a GIANT outdoor rock wall to climb, and speed pitch & obstacle course inflatables, to name a few. Another new addition to this year's carnival is our food vendors. The PTA has chosen several food vendors to sell food instead of running the food concessions ourselves. The food will be "cash only" sales and some of the offerings include barbeque, hot dogs, Uncle Dave's kettle corn and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. In addition, Matoaka's *Relay for Life* team will be selling beverages.

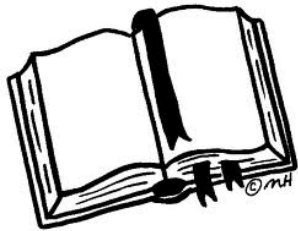
The BIGGEST and BEST change this year is the sale of "unlimited play" wristbands. Instead of the usual tickets sales, the PTA is offering wristbands that include almost all of the activities at the carnival. So for one low price, students can play games, enjoy inflatables and make as many crafts as they like. There will be a few limitations such as the food sales, but otherwise everything will be included. The cost of the wristband is \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the event. Advanced orders will begin Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup> so watch your child's backpack for an order form.

Cardinal Carnival t-shirts are now available for order through Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and will be delivered to students before the carnival. The cost is just \$6 and order forms are available in the school office and on the PTA website. In support of the carnival, families are asked to donate various items. Items needed include bottled water, cakes for the cakewalk, trinkets, books for the book walk and gift cards for the balloon grab.

Watch your child's backpack, the PTA website and the Cardinal Carnival facebook page for more information and volunteer opportunities. You may also contact Marbury Abella at [mabella201@yahoo.com](mailto:mabella201@yahoo.com) or Sue Bornschein at [skysarkjb@aol.com](mailto:skysarkjb@aol.com) to volunteer, donate items or to obtain more information.

The PTA is proud to sponsor the Cardinal Carnival for our students, their families and guests. It's our way to celebrate our "Cardinal Spirit" and thank everyone for their support of our fine learning environment at Matoaka! We hope to see you at the Cardinal Carnival!

## YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST WINNERS



The lower class winners' pictures will be displayed on the first page of the yearbook with their name and grade.

The 5th grade winning picture will be the cover of the yearbook and the 5th grade runner-up will be the back cover.

ANA LEMMON - Kindergarten winner

BEAR REDFERN - 1st grade winner

DAVIS TROGDON - 2nd grade winner

NICOLE WARD - 3rd grade winner

CANYON KOENIG - 4th grade winner

ALEXI CHAUVIN - 5th grade runner-up (picture will be the back cover of the yearbook)

NYLA SMITH - 5th grade winner (her picture will be the front cover of the yearbook)

## MATOAKA DADS

Matoaka Dads who have children in grades 3-5 are requested to assist in the preparation for the Science Fair which is held March 13th. Please contact your child's teacher for details.

The Mystery Reader program, offered by the Matoaka Dad's Club, helps to develop a love of reading while also allowing fathers (and father figures) to become involved with their children in grades K-2.

Dads (or uncles, older brothers, family friends, father-figures, etc) are scheduled to read a story to their child's classroom, preferably (but not required) dressed as a character or related theme from the book. A collection of hats and costumes are available or you are welcomed to bring your own, or just come as yourself.

Your visit will be a surprise – Only the teacher will know the identity of the Mystery Reader. Each reader will answer a few questions about himself that will be provided to the children as “clues.”

Dads are needed for each classroom every month. It shouldn't take longer than 15 or 20 minutes and is a great way to spend time with your child.

For more information contact Dan Fitzpatrick, [dcfitz@gmail.com](mailto:dcfitz@gmail.com), or Ben Thacker-Gwaltney, [bthackergwaltney@gmail.com](mailto:bthackergwaltney@gmail.com).

## BOX TOPS NEWS

Matoaka has collected 11,572 box tops so far, which equals \$1157.20.

## ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY!

Yearbooks can be purchased online at [www.candidcolor.net](http://www.candidcolor.net). Select "Yearbook" and enter the access code MATYBK14. Parents have the option to select either a softcover yearbook for \$20.00 or a hardcover yearbook for \$25.00. Order forms for parents that wish to mail in an order are available at the main office or on the PTA website at:

[www.matoaka-pta.org/2014/02/2013-2014-yearbook-orders/matoaka\\_yearbook\\_2014/](http://www.matoaka-pta.org/2014/02/2013-2014-yearbook-orders/matoaka_yearbook_2014/)

All yearbook orders must be placed by Friday, April 4, 2014. Don't delay! Contact Candid Color with any ordering questions at [customerservice@candidcolor.net](mailto:customerservice@candidcolor.net) or [1-800-321-4256](tel:1-800-321-4256).

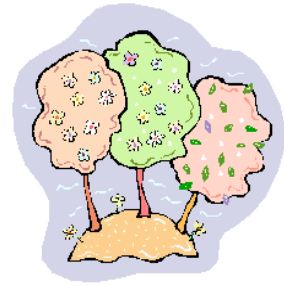
# Crafty Kids

## 10 Tips For A Fun Museum Trip

1. Go early when there are fewer crowds and your kids are fresh and open to learning.
2. Go on a full belly.
3. Look at the map together and find the bathrooms on the map. Suggest you check them out right away.
4. Go on a free day so if you must abort ship when a meltdown arises you aren't out an admission price
5. Find out if photography is allowed and if it is hand your kids a camera to document their trip.
6. In and out. Most museums will allow you to have in and out privileges so if your kids need a breather, take one.
7. Play games to keep kids engaged. Some museums will have kid friendly maps or guides.
8. Bring a sketchbook.
9. Know when they are done and find the nearest exit. Don't try to see just one more thing. If you see the signs of a meltdown just go.
10. Visit the gift shop and after you return home read about art, museums and artists to keep the learning going.

--notimeforflashcards.com

# Spring Nature Walk Senses Scavenger Hunt



Take a spring nature walk. Try to find the following things. As you find them, check them off the list. Depending on where you live, you may not be able to find everything, but see how many you can find. Pick one of the things you find to sketch in the box below.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location of nature walk: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the weather like today? \_\_\_\_\_

**Things to find/see:**

- A tree with blossoms on it  
What color are they? \_\_\_\_\_
- A tree with new leaves
- A tiny wildflower  
What color is it? \_\_\_\_\_
- A taller wildflower  
What color is it? \_\_\_\_\_
- A weed
- Two things that are different shades of green
- An ant
- A bee
- A worm
- A bird
- A bird's nest
- Something moving in the breeze
- Some mud

**Things to hear:**

- The wind rustling the leaves or grass
- A bird chirping
- Water running
- A frog or toad

**Things to feel:**

- Something warm from the sun
- Something cool in the shade
- Something moist or wet
- Something soft or smooth
- Something rough
- A flower petal  
How does it feel? \_\_\_\_\_

**Things to smell:**

- A wildflower
- The grass

Something I found on my spring nature walk:



SPRING SHOWERS BRING BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS

