
BIRD'S EYE VIEW

A Word From Our President, Michelle Alexander

Dear Matoaka Families,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and were able to take some time and enjoy the recent "school holidays" during the latter part of January. Speaking of January, it seems like it just flew by! Thank you to all of our families who joined us for the Spirit Night at Moes. The event was VERY well attended and we raised a little over \$300! I also want to thank those of you who attended our January General Meeting and Parent Program, "Bullying and Building Resistance", presented by Jen Smith and Destiny Harris, our school counselors, and Dr. Aaron Butler, WJCC Bullying Prevention Coordinator. Our speakers provided a lot of great information on our school's and our division's approach to bullying prevention, as well as great parenting tips for raising resilient kids. If you missed this program, we will be making the materials available on the PTA website soon, so be on the lookout for these valuable resources!

As we look ahead, your PTA board is hard at work on our spring programs, including a Barnes and Noble book fair night, our annual Spring Carnival, and the 2nd Annual Matoaka Dads Fire and a Flick Campout. Look for more information on these and other programs in the coming weeks.

Believe it or not, we are also beginning to make plans for the 2015-2016 school year. At the January meeting, we elected our Nominating Committee, which has been tasked with the important job of filling our PTA Board positions for the upcoming school year. Please look for more information soon on how YOU can get involved in the important work of the PTA.

Finally, I hope you will all join us for the next PTA Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, February 18th, at 7PM, in the Matoaka Media Center. Our focus for this meeting will be advocacy. As many of you know, the mission of the PTA is not only to offer support for programs and events at our school, but also to act as advocates for education, speaking "on behalf of all children and youth before governmental bodies and other organizations". The Virginia PTA Website has a wealth of information and resources on how you, as a parent and PTA member, can get involved in advocacy on the state level. At the February meeting we will discuss ways that you can get involved on a local AND state level, so please join us to learn more about how you can make your voice heard on the important issues related to our school and our children.

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.

Thank you for your continued support of our school!

Sincerely,

Michelle Alexander
PTA President

Read the Full Newsletter online at
matoaka-pta.org

Matoaka School Bookstore

The Matoaka school store is back!! The store will be open Wednesday mornings at 9:10am.

Students have the opportunity to stop by the library on their way to class to purchase trendy new school supplies. Items for sale will include scented pencils and erasers, lead refills, sharpeners, and highlighters. Prices range from 5 cents to \$1.00. All proceeds will go back to help our school!!

Matoaka SCA's Val-O-Grams

Don't forget your Valentines!! Surprise your favorite people with a special treat on Feb. 13th and support the SCA at the same time! Order forms were sent home and are due by Wed., Feb. 11th to Mrs. Burwell or Mrs. Neeley. Your Val-O-Grams will be filled out with the gift attached and delivered in class on Friday, Feb. 13th. If you have any questions or need another order form, please do not hesitate to contact Abigail Neeley at Abigail.neeley@wjccschools.org or Rose Burwell at Rose.Burwell@wjccschools.org Thank you for supporting Matoaka SCA!

PTA Reflection Contest Winners

A big thank you to all our students who submitted an entry to this year's PTA Reflections Program - "The World would be a better place if..." Our wonderful judges reviewed all 40 entries submitted by our students and selected eight entries to represent Matoaka at the WJCC level:

Primary Literature: Ellie Congrove
Primary Visual Arts: Cassidy Liebler
Intermediate Dance Choreography: Reagan Carino
Intermediate Film Production: Tate Lee
Intermediate Literature: Karin Hines
Intermediate Music Composition: Amelia Vasiliu
Intermediate Photography: Krista Johnson
Intermediate Visual Arts: Nina Longo

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 2014-15 National PTA Reflections Program.

Matoaka Elementary Yearbooks

Preorder your 2014-2015 yearbook to guarantee your copy at the end of the school year. **Order Forms** will be sent home **Tuesday February 3rd, 2015 in classroom folders**. You can also order your yearbook online at www.candidcolor.net and select **YEARBOOKS**.

Enter your access code: MATYBK15 Your Ordering Deadline Friday, April 3, 2015

We are still accepting photo submissions for the yearbook! If you have any photos of students, teaches, staff, events, etc. and would like submit them please contact Lisa Iannuzzelli at ljiannuzzelli@gmail.com for the dropbox site link and instructions on how to upload them. If they are just a few you may email them to her directly. Limit of 20mb.

Clothing to Cash Recycling Program!

Help our school raise money!! Save our landfills and give your items a second life. There is a large white collection bin in the school parking lot. The goal is to FILL our collection bin WEEKLY with as many bags of unwanted clothing, shoes, purses,towels, sheets and other textiles as possible. All materials will be reworn, repurposed or finally recycled. Matoaka Elementary School's SCA will be paid .10 for every pound we collect.

Chess Club

Join the Chess Club which meets Sundays from 2pm to 4pm. Open to everyone/all skill levels at the Williamsburg Library at 515 Scotland St.

This program is in partnership with N.I.C.E (Norfolk Initiative for Chess Education). The design of the program is to help youth of all ages learn how to play and enjoy the game of chess. Call Alton Jamison for more information. 804.541.0812.